

Opening Statement by F. Scott Kieff
Nominee to be Member of the United States International Trade Commission
Before Senate Committee on Finance Confirmation Hearing
July 18, 2013

Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today as you consider my nomination.

I am grateful to President Obama for nominating me; to Minority Leader McConnell for supporting my nomination, and to Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch for bringing us together for this confirmation hearing.

I also am grateful for the love and support from my family, several of whom are with me today: my wife Rebecca, my mom Jacqueline, my sister Elizabeth, and brother-in-law Tom, their children Asher and Estelle, my uncle Nelson, and my parents-in-law Terrie and Roy. Although he couldn't be here today, I give special thanks to my four-month-old son Evan for being such a great sounding board during his mid-night feedings.

And recognizing how hard it can be for the doctor to become the patient; I know how much my father Elliott and brother David wanted to be here today. I wish Dad a speedy recovery and appreciate David covering for Mom on Dad's care so she could travel to be here.

I am particularly honored and humbled to be here across the river from Arlington National Cemetery where two of my grandparents are buried as we discuss this opportunity for me to continue my family's tradition of public service.

The opportunity to engage each area of the Commission's wide-ranging docket would call upon many favorite aspects of the work I have long enjoyed throughout my career working as a practitioner, academic, mediator, arbitrator, and consultant.

The Title VII anti-dumping and countervailing duty portion of the docket would provide a welcome opportunity to continue my work applying diverse statutory injury factors to the facts and circumstances of specific industries and products.

I would take particular pleasure in the Section 337 portion of the Commission's docket, as I have throughout my two decades of devotion to the field of intellectual property.

And the Commission's research activities on industry and economic analysis relating to Section 332 and other statutory duties to prepare reports and provide trade policy support offer a fascinating range of opportunities to continue my academic commitment to exploring and explaining real world impacts of various approaches to trade.

In all of these areas I would greatly enjoy working with the other members of the Commission and the Commission's staff, as we exchange ideas and learn from each other's diverse wealth of experiences and perspectives.

Having long enjoyed working as a neutral mediator and arbitrator selected by all sides of a given dispute, if I were confirmed to this post I would enjoy faithfully and impartially working within the legal framework applicable to each matter then before the Commission to enforce the law, based on the particular facts. Several areas of the Commission's docket have been the focus of increasing attention in policy debates, and I understand the many diverse perspectives that have been offered. But I take seriously the limited role of a Commissioner and recognize that any legal change would be the domain of this Committee, the Congress, and the President, with interpretation when appropriate from the courts that review the Commission's work.

Over the past few months I have enjoyed frank, substantive discussions with several of you and your staff and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

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