

Court judge on the Southern District of New York. He was also a career Federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney General's Office for the Southern District of New York, serving as Chief of the Organized Crime Unit, Deputy United States attorney and Associate United States attorney.

He graduated from Rutgers Law School and has an LOM degree in criminal law from New York University Law School. I look forward to your testimony, Mr. Freeh.

STATEMENT OF LOUIS FREEH, FORMER DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. FREEH. Thank you very much, Senator. Good afternoon, Senator Sessions, good afternoon to you. It is a great privilege to be before the committee, the committee where I have appeared over 100 times and it is always a pleasure to be here.

There are many friends on the committee who I have seen over the last few days. You have a prepared statement from me. As Senator Sessions knows, I generally don't read my opening statements which has gotten me in trouble with OMB over the years, but I thought it might be good just to talk and tell you why I'm here.

I have had the privilege to work with great judges and a few people who are truly legendary judges. Let me just mention a couple. I served on the District Court with Constance Baker Motley who before she was a judge had those qualities of fairness and open-mindedness and commitment to the rule of law that I think we wish to see in our judges.

The last case I tried as a judge was in the District of Minnesota before Judge Devitt. It was a case which by the way, Judge Sessions, Senator Sessions and I worked on together. He was the Attorney General of Alabama, great Attorney General, and I was an Assistant U.S. Attorney working on the case. It was the murder of a Federal judge. It was one of the few tragic times in our history when a Federal judge was murdered and the case was tried before Judge Devitt.

Judge Devitt, who many of his peers said was the judge from central casting, was the model of judicial conduct and commitment. The jury instruction book, Devitt and Blackmun, was named after him. The Devitt Award, which is probably the most prestigious judicial award, is named after him. He was actually one of my mentors when I went on the Southern District bench.

I was sworn in as FBI Director by Judge Frank Johnson, who as someone has mentioned here before, was a legendary judicial hero from Winston County, Alabama. He, together with a handful of other Republican judges, really changed the tide of history by their commitment to the law and to civil rights. Their fearlessness, honesty, and integrity with which they took office—an example to all judges.

So it is my pleasure to recommend to the committee the confirmation of this outstanding judge, Sonia Sotomayor. I want to talk a little bit about her judicial experience. I have been here or listening to these proceedings for the last few days. I think I may be the only lawyer who has actually been with her in a courtroom. Since in my view real life experience is the best indicator of what

a judge will do in the future—how they behaved, conducted, wrote and decided matters as a judge.

As has been mentioned before, this candidate has an enormous and rich judicial record, 17 years, thousands of opinions, all the things that you want to look for as you make your evaluation.

The process by which Judge Sotomayor comes here before you is quite extensive. You have the President and his reviewers, own investigation, you have the Bar Associations, this committee. You have the FBI that conducted now three background investigations. I was actually Director when the second one was done.

You have any and all information that has come from the public, from the citizens, Americans. You have reputational evidence from other judges, from lawyers who had appeared before her.

My association with her began in 1992. She was a new judge on the Southern District and we had this tradition where the second newest judge would mentor the new judge. Some of us didn't think it was the wisest rule to have, since I had about 9 months on the bench when she was entrusted to my care, so to speak.

I actually sat with her in court and sat with her during trials. I helped review opinions that she asked me to look at. My law clerks were encamped with her law clerks.

What I want to communicate to you in the very short period remaining is Judge Sotomayor's enormous judicial integrity and commitment to finding the facts, to being open minded, to being fair. She struggled and deliberated in making sure she had all the facts, making sure she had the right law, following the law and being the kind of judge that I think we would all be proud of.

Speeches are important and it is great the way you all have considered that so carefully, but when you enter the courtroom and you put the judicial robe on, just as you assume the authority when you take your committee, it is a whole different set of influences and immense power and influence that takes over.

When Judge Sotomayor has been on the bench, what she has written, when she has argued, the way she has conducted herself, I think we can very safely predict this is going to be an outstanding judge with all the qualities that I know that you would want. So I urge you all to support her. Thank you very much.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much. Thank you for your testimony. Next we have Chuck Canterbury. Chuck Canterbury is the National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, one of the nation's largest and most prominent voices for law enforcement officers.

Mr. Canterbury has served in numerous capacities in the organization including national Vice President and national Second Vice President. He has 25 years of experience in law enforcement where he worked as a police officer in Horry County, South Carolina. Maybe you know Lindsey Graham, one of our members here. In only the best ways, I am sure.

We look very much forward to your testimony. Thank you, Mr. Canterbury.