



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION**

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The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan
Chairperson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2011

**Three Persons Recommended for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Vacancy
Created by the Retirement of Judge Noël Anketell Kramer**

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission ("Commission") has forwarded to President Barack Obama the names of three lawyers for his consideration in selecting a nominee to fill a judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The President has sixty (60) days to select a nominee to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Noël Anketell Kramer. The Commission recommends the following candidates to fill this vacancy:

Alan Robert Burch is an Assistant Appellate Counsel in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where he defends a wide variety of claims against federal agencies and officials. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office in 2003, Mr. Burch worked as a senior attorney at the United States Department of Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Enforcement and Compliance Division. In this capacity, Mr. Burch led administrative investigations and enforcement actions against national banks and their officers and directors for violations of banking laws, including anti-discrimination and consumer protection laws. He also worked in the Bank Activities and Structure Division of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, where he drafted interpretive letters regarding bank activities and legal opinions concerning bank mergers. In 1997, Mr. Burch worked in the Treasury Department's Office of Legislative Affairs, where he assisted with the Department's presentation of views to Congress on a variety of banking and financial issues. Mr. Burch has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from the University of Washington and a *diplome semestriel* from the Sorbonne in Paris, France. He earned his law degree

from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as Articles Editor for the *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* and also earned a Master of Arts degree in History.

Catharine (Kate) Friend Easterly is an attorney in the Special Litigation Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. She litigates complex, recurring criminal justice issues in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In addition, Ms. Easterly litigates civil suits, habeas petitions, and appeals arising from these matters in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She has filed numerous amicus briefs on behalf of the Public Defender Service and others in the Supreme Court of the United States. She also works closely with the Public Defender Service's General Counsel and Legislative Counsel on legislative and policy matters. Before joining the Public Defender Service, in 2003, Ms. Easterly was an associate at the New York law firm of Stillman & Friedman, P.C. (now Stillman, Friedman & Schechtman, P.C.). She also worked as an appellate public defender, first at the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County and later at the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York City. Ms. Easterly has a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude* and with distinction in History, from Yale College, and earned her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Christopher Todd Handman is a partner in the Supreme Court and appellate practice at Hogan Lovells US LLP. For the past ten years, he has argued appeals in eight of the federal circuit courts of appeals, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and in a number of state Supreme Courts and appellate courts. Mr. Handman has also briefed matters before the United States Supreme Court at the petition and merits stages of litigation. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Political Science from the American University in Washington, DC, graduating *summa cum laude* and with University Honors. He earned his law degree from Yale Law School, where he was a Senior Editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and Editor in Chief of the *Yale Journal of International Law*. Following law school, Mr. Handman served as a law clerk for the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for the Honorable Patricia M. Wald of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Questions concerning the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission should be directed to the Executive Director at (202) 879-0478 or via email at dc.jnc@dc.gov.

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