

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the Committee, good morning.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply honored by President Trump's nomination and grateful for the President's and Secretary Hegseth's trust and confidence.

Above all, I am thankful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon our Nation, our military, and my family.

I am also especially thankful for my wife of 34 years Laurie; our daughter Madison Young and her fiancé, Richard; our daughter Doctor Darby Schauss and her husband Derek; our son, Captain Charles Lee Young IV and his wife, Holly; and our 1-year old grandson, Kenneth Schauss. Their undeniable love and support sustain me.

I come from the small coal mining town of Berwind, West Virginia, in the heart of Appalachia where patriotism and public service run deep.

The Young family is shaped by generations of Army service: my grandfather, Charles Lee Young, served in the artillery in World War I; my father, Charles Lee Young, Jr, served in the infantry in World War II; I had the privilege to serve as an Army AH-64 pilot and Judge Advocate; and today, that legacy continues with our son, Captain Charles Lee Young IV, who serves as an Army Apache pilot at JBLM.

I am very grateful for the many opportunities the Army has provided to my family. Through the Army, I earned an undergraduate degree, a master's degree, and a law degree. It also provided similar opportunities for our son. The Army really is a place where you can "be.all.that.you.can.be."

My 15 years of Army service ultimately laid the foundation for another 15 years of service as an active-duty Air National Guard Judge Advocate and Air Force civilian attorney, followed by another five years as the General Counsel of the National Guard Bureau.

In these roles, I have advised military and civilian leaders from the company level to the cabinet level on the full spectrum of complex and multi-faceted legal issues facing the Department of Defense.

In recent months, I had the privilege to serve as the Acting General Counsel and the Principal Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense—an experience that has further deepened my respect for our exceptionally competent and dedicated service members and for the complexity of the operations and administration of the Department of Defense.

I am truly proud of my amazing legal teammates across the Office of General Counsel and the military legal departments.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside so many dedicated professionals over the past 36 years of federal military and civilian service.

I believe that under Secretary Driscoll's leadership, the Army is moving boldly to meet growing demands and deter rising threats—from restoring the Warrior Ethos, modernizing the force and accelerating innovation, to strengthening readiness and improving the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families.

To that end, I am committed emphatically to deliver clear, constructive legal advice—anchored in law and aligned with the Secretary’s priorities.

If confirmed, I will work closely and collaboratively with the Army Judge Advocate General and will commit to undertake a comprehensive review of the provision of the full spectrum of legal services within the Department of the Army to ensure that we have the most efficient and effective delineation of legal functions, responsibilities, and allocation of legal resources to best support Army leaders at every echelon.

This is an area that is in great need of reform.

Above all, I remain committed to our Army Warfighters and their Families.

Everything we do as legal advisors must enable Soldiers to excel—in training, in combat, and wherever the Nation calls them to serve or fight.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.