

STATEMENT OF JENNIFER M. O'CONNOR, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Reed, and members of the Committee. It is a great honor to appear before the Committee today as the nominee to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

I would not be here but for the dedication and support of my family and colleagues. In particular, I want to thank my wonderful husband, David, and my children, Ian and Dylan, who are here today. I also want to thank and introduce my father, Austin, a former enlisted Army MP, who is here, with his wife Miebeth. I am also grateful for the confidence placed in me by President Obama and Secretary Carter and for their support of my nomination.

If confirmed, I will pledge my continued personal commitment to the rule of law. I will work to ensure that the Department remains in full compliance with all applicable law. I will also pledge always to keep in mind the importance of protecting our country from threats to national security and will work to help find lawful paths to support our military and civilian personnel as they work to achieve our mission objectives. Following the Secretary's lead, I will pledge my best efforts to ensure that the Armed Services Committees are kept properly informed, in furtherance of their critical oversight responsibilities. Finally and most important, as General Counsel, I will pledge to serve the people who serve us, the fine men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the civilian personnel who support their mission. As the daughter, niece and cousin to seven former servicemembers spanning the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, I have long been inspired by their commitment to this great country. Having worked closely with many of our men and women in uniform over the past several months as a Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Defense, I am honored to be considered to continue serving them as General Counsel.

If confirmed, I will make every effort to live up to the confidence placed in me. I want to thank you again for this opportunity to be heard, and I look forward to your questions.