

Statement of Amanda L. Meredith
Nominee to be Judge, United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
July 19, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Tester, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

It is an honor to have been nominated by the President to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. I have spent my entire 20-year legal career working in the field of veterans' law and it would be a great privilege to continue serving veterans in this meaningful new role.

During my career, I have seen the impact on veterans and their families when they face delays receiving decisions on their claims for veterans' benefits. So, it would be important to me personally to quickly begin helping the court provide justice to the veterans who are already waiting for decisions and keep up with the challenging incoming caseload. I believe my experience, skills, and dedication to the area of veterans' law would allow me to do just that.

After law school, I began my legal career by serving on the staff of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for more than 7 years. As a law clerk, I learned the canons of veterans' law and gained valuable experience with researching, editing, and writing judicial decisions. Later, as the Executive Attorney to the Chief Judge, I supervised an entire chambers' staff; managed the chambers' caseload, including helping to ensure that cases were acted on in a timely manner; and assisted the chief judge with issues concerning administration of the court. I also supervised a task force of attorneys helping the judges provide answers to veterans and their families who had already waited too long for justice.

Since then, I have spent more than 12 years working for the United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where I currently serve as the General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director. This work has included conducting oversight and analyzing legislation regarding veterans' benefits, the claims and appeals process at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. During this time, I have had an opportunity to work collaboratively with veterans' organizations and to assist Members of Congress in enacting a broad range of laws to help improve the benefits and services for our nation's veterans.

These collective experiences not only have increased my gratitude for veterans, their families, and their survivors but have provided me with a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that I believe would translate well into serving on the court. If confirmed, I would continue to build on that foundation and work with the highest level of dedication and diligence to ensure that veterans will receive justice in a fair, timely manner with the respect they deserve.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.