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**Remarks as Prepared for Delivery**

**Opening Statement of Tamara W. Ashford**  
**Nominee For Judge, United States Tax Court**  
**Senate Committee On Finance**  
**January 15, 2014**

Good morning Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today.

I am grateful to President Obama for nominating me, and I am grateful to you and to the Committee's outstanding staff for processing my nomination so promptly.

I would like to briefly introduce my family members who are with me here today. First, my parents, Ronald and Wenda Ashford, were able to travel here from Boston. My father is a retired high school teacher with the Quincy, Massachusetts public schools, having taught at the same school for over 35 years. Similarly, my mother retired after a nearly 40-year career at the Massachusetts General Hospital. They both instilled in me the passion for learning and a love for the law, as well as the values of working hard and being a good public servant, and I am thrilled that they could be here today. Their support has been invaluable, and I am grateful beyond what words can convey. I am also pleased to have my aunt, Bonnie Logan, join us today from Baltimore. Aunt Bonnie is an inspiration to me because of the imprint she has made and the barriers she has broken in tennis not only in North Carolina (where my she and my mother, together with their brother, were raised) but in the larger tennis world – a professional tennis player, notably Bonnie was the first black member of the Virginia Slims Tennis Circuit (which Circuit eventually became the basis for the later named WTA Tour); and she was among the first people of color to play in the South African Open Tennis Championships in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1972. I am grateful for her continuous support.

Most of my nearly 20-year career as a lawyer has been spent directly involved in the area of tax controversies and litigation. And I have experience in handling these types of matters from all sides – the Department of Justice, private practice, and the Internal Revenue Service. In private practice, my focus was on federal tax controversy and litigation matters, representing both corporate and individual taxpayers in the United States Tax Court, as well as other federal trial and appellate courts. Early in my career, as a civil tax appellate attorney with the Department of Justice's Tax Division, I briefed and presented oral argument in cases before the U.S. Courts of Appeals that were appealed from the Tax Court, as well as other federal courts. For the past few years, as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Appellate and Review in the Tax Division, I lead the team responsible for determining the Government's unified strategy with respect to civil tax appeals originating from the Tax Court and other federal courts. I also work to resolve civil tax cases through settlement or through concession. As an aside, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my boss, Assistant Attorney General Kathy Keneally, who is here today, for her leadership, support, and friendship. I owe a great debt of thanks to her for the fact that I sit here today as a nominee to the Tax Court.

Through my experiences, which also includes leadership positions held outside my professional work, I have come to understand what makes a good judge and amassed the temperament and skills to be an independent arbiter as a Tax Court Judge. If confirmed, I hope to continue to be guided by the values and principles instilled in me by my family and my past experiences – to work hard and to serve our nation’s tax system by resolving tax controversies fairly, impartially and expeditiously.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.