

**Statement of Jessica Rosenworcel,
Nominee to be a Member of
The Federal Communications Commission**

November 30, 2011

Good afternoon, Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchison, and the distinguished Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as a nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. For nearly five years, I have had the privilege of serving this Committee as Senior Communications Counsel. So I am accustomed to these halls, this room, and the deliberations of this body. But I can assure you that sitting at this table today is a different experience altogether.

I would like to start by introducing my family. Sitting behind me is my terrific husband of eleven years, Mark Bailen. Sitting beside him are our children, Caroline Frances, age five, and Emmett Joseph, age two. Like parents the world round, they are our pride and joy.

Though they are not here today, I also would like to note my parents, Elliott and Willa Rosenworcel. They are at home in Hartford, Connecticut.

I like to think that a commitment to public service runs in my family. My father served in the Air Force, before going on to a career as a nephrologist in Hartford. For three decades he also ran the city clinic for hypertension and kidney failure. My mother has spent the last two decades helping run a soup kitchen in Hartford. My grandfather before them served in the United States Customs Service here in Washington. My great grandfather before that served the public in another way—he swept the streets of New York.

It is a great honor to have been nominated by President Obama to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission.

Communications technologies are a source of tremendous opportunity. They support our commerce, they connect our communities, and they enhance our security. They help create good jobs. And by unlocking the full potential of broadband, we will alter the way we educate, create, entertain, and govern ourselves. This reminds us of the great sweep of FCC authority, and its impact on what every American reads, sees, and hears.

But communications technology is changing at a brisk pace. Laws and regulations struggle to keep up. The challenge for the FCC is identifying how to inspire the best in communications in a world where change is a constant and innovation can invert what we think we know.

In approaching this challenge, I believe that a little humility helps.

At the same time, it is absolutely essential that the FCC honor the values that are at the core of the Communications Act.

This means that the safety of our people is paramount. New communications technologies should facilitate our security and promote the safety of life and property.

This means universal service. No matter who you are or where you live in this country, you should have access to first-rate communications service. To prosper in the 21st century, all of our communities—urban, rural, and everything in between—need this access. Our communications networks, and the access they provide, should be the envy of the world.

This means competitive markets. They are the most effective means of facilitating innovation and ensuring the public reaps its benefits.

This means a fierce commitment to consumer protection. Communications technology and media are growing more complex. It is vitally important to get consumers the information they need to make good choices. We should strive, too, to help parents and families navigate the bewildering new digital world of media and communications.

These values derive from the law. If confirmed, they will inform my efforts going forward.

If confirmed, it will be an honor to continue to work with the members of this Committee. I pledge to listen to you, the Congress, those with business before the FCC—and above all, the American people.

If confirmed, it will be an honor to work with the talented members of the Commission: Chairman Genachowski, Commissioner McDowell, and Commissioner Clyburn. Though I have only recently made his acquaintance, if confirmed, I believe it also will be a pleasure to work with the individual sitting next to me today, Mr. Pai.

Finally, I believe that the FCC is blessed to have a staff of uncommon skill. If confirmed, I know it will be a pleasure to work with them day in, and day out.

In closing, Chairman Rockefeller and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.