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**Statement of Paul Martin
Nominee to be Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space
Administration**

**Before the
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate**

October 15, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Hutchison, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this hearing today. I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Inspector General at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to provide timely, accurate, and aggressive oversight of NASA operations.

At the outset, I would like to recognize my family who are here today: my parents, Jean and George Martin from Pittsburgh; my in-laws, Stephen and Christine Liu from Potomac (by way of Ann Arbor); several siblings and their families; and my colleagues from the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG), including Inspector General Glenn Fine. I am honored that all of these family and friends are here today, but I am especially gratified that I can share this day with my wife, Rebekah Liu – an attorney at the SEC – and my daughters Anna, Emily, and Grace.

In addition, I would like to recognize the staff at the NASA OIG, and in particular Deputy Inspector General Tom Howard who has ably managed the office during the past 6 months when the agency has been without a confirmed Inspector General.

I have spent the bulk of my professional life in Washington, D.C. working at two important federal agencies – the U.S. Sentencing Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice. The former I was privileged to help establish, while at the latter I was honored to be part of a team that conducted vigorous oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and other Department of Justice components during an especially trying period in our national history.

I moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985, fresh from a 3-year stint as an investigative reporter at a South Carolina newspaper. At that time, President Reagan had appointed then-federal district court Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr. as chairman of the newly formed Sentencing Commission, and I was fortunate enough to be one of the agency's first three employees. I worked alongside Judge Wilkins, then-Judge Stephen Breyer, five other Commissioners, and a handful of staff to create a new federal agency and, at the same time, develop the initial set of federal sentencing guidelines. I served first as a Special Assistant to the Staff Director, then as the Commission's Communications Director, and finally as the Commission's Deputy Staff Director where I helped supervise a staff of more than 100 lawyers, researchers, guidelines trainers, and data technicians. Along the way I attended evening law school at Georgetown University where I received a Juris Doctor but, much more significantly, where I met my wife, Rebekah.

I moved to the Department of Justice OIG in 1998. During my time at the Justice Department, I have served in a variety of positions, most recently as Deputy Inspector General for the past 6 years under Glenn Fine, who to me and many others in the Inspector General community is the epitome of the kind of leader any Inspector General should strive to emulate. Glenn and my colleagues at the DOJ OIG are some of the brightest, hardest working, most dedicated public servants on the planet.

As the Committee considers my nomination as Inspector General at NASA, I am excited and energized by the prospect of working with NASA Administrator Bolden, Deputy Administrator Garver, and NASA leadership across the country to help ensure the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of NASA programs. One meeting with the Administrator and Deputy Administrator and I am convinced that they understand and appreciate the independent oversight role played by the Office of Inspector General.

From my vantage point outside of NASA, I see three primary challenges facing the NASA OIG in the months and years ahead:

- The OIG must conduct timely audits and reviews of NASA's top management challenges that 1) are helpful to NASA managers and contain practical recommendations for improvement; 2) provide substantive and timely information to Congress in its oversight role; and 3) ensure transparency and accountability to the public about how NASA spends its funds;
- The OIG must maintain a professional, cooperative, yet independent working relationship with NASA managers and employees; and
- The OIG must help to ensure the integrity of NASA programs and personnel and the proper use of taxpayer funds through criminal and administrative investigations of allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement.

I am thankful for this nomination and the opportunity, if confirmed, to serve alongside the men and women of the NASA Office of Inspector General as we work together to help NASA achieve its challenging and important mission.

Thank you.