

Statement of Commissioner Caroline A. Crenshaw

Nominee to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission Before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the United States Senate

July 11, 2024

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Scott, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. It is an honor to be considered for reappointment to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Last month was the 90th anniversary of the passage of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which established the SEC during the Great Depression. Over the years, the SEC and its staff have worked on behalf of generations of Americans to help ensure that the securities markets are fundamentally fair and safe for investors' hard-earned dollars. This capital, in turn, has financed all manner of businesses and allowed our economy to thrive.

I have had the privilege to contribute to the SEC's work for over a decade. I began my career at the SEC as a staff attorney in the Division of Examinations (formerly the Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations), helping oversee the institutions that manage millions of Americans' savings. I also served in the Division of Investment Management and as Counsel to Commissioners Kara Stein and Robert Jackson, focusing on how to strengthen investor protections in our increasingly complex markets. Most recently, I have served as a member of the Commission, using the expertise that I developed as a member of the staff – of the securities laws, the markets that we regulate, and the inner workings of the institution itself – to bring independent thought and analysis to the service of our mission.

In addition to my SEC work, I also serve in the United States Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps.

My SEC and Army lives sometimes intersect, in good ways and in bad. I have been committed to bringing a message of financial readiness to American Servicemembers. Speaking with Servicemembers, Cadets, and Midshipmen about the securities markets and financial literacy has been a highlight for me.

Unfortunately, I am also aware that fraudsters prey on everyday Americans, including Servicemembers and their families. In one particularly troubling SEC enforcement action, it is alleged that an Army financial counselor defrauded the families of fallen Soldiers. If confirmed, I intend to continue to educate and advocate for strengthening protections for American Servicemembers from fraud.

I would also continue to work tirelessly in support of the SEC's mission: protecting investors; maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitating capital formation.

To me, this means promoting trust in the securities markets by reducing opportunities for bad actors to engage in fraud and manipulation. It means ensuring that investors have access to appropriate and truthful disclosures that help them make informed investment decisions. It means ensuring that investment professionals fulfill their obligations to customers and elevate

the interests of investors above their own. And, it means balancing the interests of those who participate in our markets to help ensure smaller players have the chance to compete. I believe that this framework benefits investors and those seeking to raise capital alike, and is a pillar of our economy.

Thank you to my husband and family, who are here with me today, for your unwavering support.

Thank you also to my fellow Commissioners. Our discourse, and at times differing views, lead to more thoughtful outcomes on behalf of the American public. And, of course, thank you to the SEC staff for your service. The talent, ingenuity, and commitment of the public servants at the agency cannot be overstated. It has been a privilege and an honor to work alongside them in support of the SEC's mission.

I feel truly honored to be here with you today. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.