

As you have been told, Chris also has another big fan, Larry Thompson. Two years ago I had the honor and the pleasure of coming before this Committee to present Larry Thompson for his nomination hearing as deputy attorney general. He has done an outstanding job for this Nation, as I knew he would. Larry Thompson also holds Chris Wray in very high regard. Larry was Chris' mentor early in his career, and they served together on that elite Special Matters practice at King and Spalding.

Larry is also the godfather of Chris' 6-year-old son, Trip, and his wife Helen and his daughter Caroline are also here with us today.

As an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Georgia, Chris was assigned to the hardest cases, and he helped send to prison drug traffickers, counterfeiters, church arsonists, kidnapers, armed bank robbers and gun traffickers.

One of Chris' final cases was a very high-profile public corruption case, in which the City of Atlanta had lost millions of dollars in a bribery scheme. It was a complicated case that was made more so by the fact that the opposing counsel was Chris' friend and mentor, Larry Thompson.

After a hard-fought 3-week trial, Chris won a guilty verdict, and Larry's client was sentenced to prison. At that point, Larry was probably wishing that he had not trained Chris quite so well. But several months later, when Larry became deputy attorney general, he did what any sensible person would do who had been beaten by one of the best. He brought Chris to Washington as his top assistant.

At the Justice Department, Chris has approached his duties with that same dedication, the same common sense, the same keen legal skills that made Griffin Bell and Larry Thompson take notice of them more than a decade ago. At a time when our Nation faces a threat from terrorism like any we have ever faced, we need the hardest worker, we need the brightest man as our top criminal prosecutor. And I submit to this distinguished Committee that is what we have in Chris Wray.

So it is my honor to present Christopher Wray to this Committee. I want to join Griffin Bell, and Larry Thompson, and Senator Sam Nunn, Senator Saxby Chambliss in giving him my strongest recommendation for confirmation as assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator GRAHAM. Thanks, Senator.

Thank you both. Very impressive young man.

Senator Murray?

PRESENTATION OF LONNY SUKO, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, BY HON. PATTY MURRAY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Senator Edwards, members of the Committee, along with my colleague, Senator Cantwell and members of our House delegation who are both here, Congressman George Nethercutt and Congressman Doc Hastings, it is my pleasure to introduce Lonny Suko, a distinguished lawyer and U.S. magistrate judge from Washington State.

I want to welcome Judge Suko and his wife Marcia, who is with him today, to this hearing.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to recommend that the Senate confirm Lonny Suko as a District Court judge for the Eastern District of Washington State. Judge Suko has strong bipartisan support, and with good reason. He has handled some of the most difficult cases in Eastern Washington in the past decade, and he has won the respect of everyone who has come before him. That is one of the reasons why Judge Suko enjoys such strong support from a diverse group of attorneys and community leaders in Washington State.

Both Senator Cantwell and I assisted the President in choosing him from a list of very qualified candidates. Lonny Suko has spent his life living and serving Eastern Washington. He is a graduate of my alma mater, Washington State University, and of the University of Idaho School of Law. He has had a distinguished career as a lawyer and a U.S. magistrate judge.

In private practice, Lonny Suko had a successful practice defending both plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of tort, contract, creditor/debtor and public sector cases. He has also distinguished himself as a U.S. magistrate judge, serving part time from 1971 to 1991 and full time since 1991.

As I mentioned, Judge Suko handled some of the most challenging cases in recent history in Eastern Washington. He heard the injury and death claims of more than 2 dozen plaintiffs who were victimized by a gunman at Fairchild Air Force Base in the early 1990's. He was involved in several other high-profile settlements. In all of those cases, Judge Suko won high praise for his judicial demeanor, his fairness and his respect for all parties.

Judge Suko clearly meets the standards of fairness, even-handedness, and adherence to the law that we expect of our Federal Judges. Outside of his many professional credentials, I have met with him and I have been impressed by both his professionalism and his decency.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to introduce a great lawyer and judge who I believe will make an exceptional Federal Judge. I urge this Committee to approve his nomination, and I hope we can confirm Judge Suko before the full Senate quickly. He served the people of our State well, and I am proud to support his confirmation.

Thank you very much.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator Murray, thank you very much.

Senator Hutchison from Texas.

PRESENTATION OF EARL LEROY YEAKEL III, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS; AND KAREN P. TANDY, NOMINEE TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BY HON. KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Senator HUTCHISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am here today to ask for confirmation of two outstanding Texans.