

**Statement of
Susan Beard
Nominee to be
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
May 12, 2016**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is a great privilege.

I am honored to have been nominated by the President and to be considered by this Committee for confirmation as the Inspector General for the Department of Energy.

I would like to start by thanking, from the very bottom of my heart, my husband Charles Klingman, and our children Adina and Jacob. Charles has been extraordinarily supportive of me throughout our 27 years of marriage. Without his unending support, I would not be able to be here today and have the meaningful and rewarding career I have had as a career member of the Senior Executive Service while raising two wonderful children. Our marriage has truly been a team effort which I greatly appreciate, especially in light of the fact that our youngest child has significant developmental disabilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my sister, Karen Yaghoubian. Even though Karen is only five years older than me, she really helped raise me. Our mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was three years old and passed away when I was fourteen. Without Karen's support, I would not have been able to attend college and law school. I would simply not be the person I am today.

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and my family moved to Los Angeles, California when I was young. I received my B.A. from Pomona College and my law degree from UCLA. While in law school, I spent a summer as a law clerk for a law firm in Anchorage, Alaska. It was a wonderful experience and exposed me to the warm people of Alaska and its breathtaking surroundings. After graduating from law school, I worked for a short time in private practice for a law firm in Los Angeles. I then moved to Washington, D.C. to become a staff attorney with the Federal Election Commission, a position I held until I came to the Department in 1989. I also taught legal research and writing in a part-time capacity at American University's Law School.

I strongly believe in the importance and value of public service. I have been a career Federal employee for almost 29 years and a member of the Senior Executive Service for more than 13 years. I have been in an attorney position for all of my Federal career. In 2008, I was honored to receive a Senior Executive Service Meritorious Rank Award from President George W. Bush.

I have managed the Department of Energy's ethics program as the Designated Agency Ethics Official or the Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official for almost 20 years. For the last 13 years, I have served the Department as the Assistant General Counsel for General Law. In this capacity, I not only manage the ethics program but also provide legal advice on a wide range of matters that impact all of the Department's Federal workforce and, to a much lesser extent, the Department's contractors. The legal areas under my purview include Federal personnel law, information law, and appropriations law. I also manage the largest team of attorneys within the Department's Office of the General Counsel.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with the Office of Inspector General. The majority of this work dealt with allegations of statutory or regulatory ethics violations by current or former Federal employees. I also have worked on Federal personnel law issues, appropriations law and Freedom of Information Act matters with the Office of Inspector General.

I believe strongly in the role of the Office of Inspector General as an independent office within the Department of Energy. . If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed to this position, I commit to you that I will uphold this standard of excellence and independence. In my role as the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official, I am responsible for advising the Department's most senior leaders to ensure compliance with ethics requirements. I have never refrained from providing honest and unbiased legal advice.

If I am confirmed, I will apply that same independence to the work of the Office of Inspector General. I believe the Office of Inspector General must apply the law and conduct thorough investigations, regardless of where such an investigation may lead. If I am confirmed, I pledge to work with this Committee and with the full Congress to execute its important oversight duties.

Madam Chairman, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.