

**§Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
Before the Committee on the Judiciary
On the Nominations of:**

Jane Kelly, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit

February 27, 2013

I am particularly pleased to welcome the nominee, Ms. Jane Kelly, her family, friends and guests. Ms. Kelly is nominated to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. She presently serves as an Assistant Federal Public Defender and is the Supervising Attorney of the office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Ms. Kelly is a native of Indiana. She received her B.A. from Duke University in 1987. She spent the next ten months in New Zealand as a Fulbright Scholar. She received her J.D. from Harvard University in 1991. Upon graduation, she clerked for Judge Donald J. Porter, United States District Court for the District of South Dakota, then for Judge David R. Hansen of the Eighth Circuit. From 1993 to 1994 she was a Visiting Instructor at the University of Illinois College of Law.

Since 1994, Ms. Kelly has served as an assistant federal public defender in the Federal Public Defender's office for the Northern District of Iowa. She handles criminal matters for indigent defendants and has handled a wide range of crimes. Since 1999, she has been the supervising attorney for the Cedar Rapids office. Ms. Kelly has spent her entire legal career in litigation and has appeared in court frequently. She has tried fourteen cases to jury verdict and has also represented clients before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Kelly is active in the Bar and in District Court matters. She presently serves on the Criminal Justice Act Panel Selection Committee, the Blue Ribbon Panel for Criminal Cases and the Facility Security Committee of the District Court. She has been a member of the Dean Mason Ladd Inn of Court as well as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

In 2004 her peers honored her with the John Adams Award from the Iowa Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Drake University Law School. She was the unanimous choice for this award which recognizes individuals who show a commitment to the constitutional right to criminal defense.

Judge Hansen, for whom Ms. Kelly clerked, has submitted a letter of support. In that letter he states that Ms. Kelly has practiced law in an exemplary fashion. He notes “She is a forthright woman of high integrity and of honest character.” He observed that she possesses an exceptionally keen intellect and a fair and compassionate advocate for her clients. Judge Hansen concludes that “she will be a welcomed addition to the Court if confirmed.”

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has unanimously rated Ms. Kelly as “Qualified”.

Again, I welcome Ms. Kelly and look forward to her testimony.