

Statement of Kara M. Stein
Nominee to be a Commissioner of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission
Before the
United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
June 27, 2013

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Crapo, distinguished Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be here this morning. It is an incredible privilege to appear before you as one of President Obama's nominees to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

I would like to begin by thanking my family for their tremendous support. I am grateful to be joined today by my husband, Stephen Miller, and my children Isabel and Rowan, who are sitting directly behind me. I also would like to thank my mother, Norma Stein, and my sister, Katherine Stein, both of whom are here as well.

I also would like to congratulate my colleague, Mike Piwowar, who like me has been nominated to serve on the Commission.

The United States has the largest, most robust, and most dynamic securities markets in the world. As the federal securities regulator, the SEC has a critical three-part mission: to protect investors; to facilitate capital formation; and to ensure the integrity, transparency, and efficiency of these constantly evolving markets.

The breadth and scope of that mission—and the responsibilities and duties that flow from it—are significant. I am honored to be nominated to serve in such a vital agency with a proud and distinguished history, and alongside a staff known for its tremendous skill and expertise.

Whether as a practicing attorney, an assistant law professor, or a person deeply involved in Senate Banking Committee policy for the past 15 years, including my time as Staff Director of the Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee, I have learned how essential it is to listen to a variety of viewpoints and develop public policy solutions to complex issues from the facts. If confirmed, I would look forward to engaging with the Commission, the SEC staff, and interested members of the public on the array of issues currently in the Commission's jurisdiction.

I also believe that capital formation and strong investor protections go hand in hand, as a lack of fairness and transparency in markets can lead to higher transaction costs and less capital. If confirmed, I would strive to meet the challenge of protecting investors while ensuring that businesses have the access to the financial services they need to grow and create jobs.

Beyond this, strong enforcement is critical to investor confidence and well-functioning markets. If confirmed, I would endeavor to be fair in assessing enforcement recommendations that come before the Commission, supporting aggressive actions and sanctions when supported by the facts and the law.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.