

PRESENTATION OF
MEI NAKAMOTO

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Second Special Session of 2008

Monday, July 28, 2008
10:30 a.m., Room 016

TESTIMONY ON JC1
Nomination of Kelsey T. Kawano

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Mei Nakamoto, and I am testifying **in strong support** of Kelsey Kawano's nomination to the District Court of the Second Circuit. I have known and worked with Mr. Kawano for several years and offer this testimony in my personal capacity.

Like my husband, Lawrence Reifurth, I have known Kelsey Kawano since at least 2004. My testimony in favor of Mr. Kawano is not based on any work as an attorney, although both of us practice in the area of family law. Instead, I would like to share with the Committee my insights about Mr. Kawano as a volunteer in the community. I believe how one conducts oneself outside of one's work day is very revealing. Kelsey Kawano has conducted himself in a way that demonstrates the Judiciary will be well-served if the Legislature approves Mr. Kawano joining that branch of our State government.

Mr. Kawano's daughter and Larry's and my daughter were age-group swimmers, and we adults volunteered as swimming officials during swim meets. Mr. Kawano, Larry and I also served as members of a hearings panel of the swimming organization's by-laws enforcement committee.

In every instance – whether it was as a swim official on the pool deck applying USA Swimming rules to the form of a particular swimmer's stroke or

kick, or as a hearing committee member applying the swimming organization's by-laws to the facts presented – Kelsey Kawano always (a) was well-prepared, (b) careful in his consideration of the rules and facts, and (c) highly-conscious of the principles of due process and fairness. There was never an exception. He never had the attitude that a different standard of his conduct should apply since he was “only a volunteer.”

By recommending confirmation, this Committee will be sending to the full Senate a candidate who not only is well-qualified as a professional but who also has a track record of acting with the highest standard of conduct in all aspects of his life. If Kelsey Kawano is so conscientious and judicious when he's a volunteer, imagine how much we can all benefit if he is on the bench.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these remarks.