

Statement of Pierre Gentin
Nominee for General Counsel of Commerce
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
May 13, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

It's a great honor to testify before you today as nominee for General Counsel of the Commerce Department. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for nominating me, to Secretary Lutnick for his leadership of the Department, and to this Committee for considering my nomination.

I'm grateful to family and friends joining me today, including my mother Adele, my siblings Et and Danielle, my wonderful wife Reyna, and our son Micah. Our daughter Ariella is watching online from Jerusalem. My father and teacher, Dr. Benjamin Gentin, passed away last year. He is with me today in spirit.

The honor of appearing before you today belongs entirely to my parents who moved our family from South Africa to the United States nearly 50 years ago, so that my siblings and I could live as free, proud and productive citizens. It was the American bicentennial; I was nine years old. My parents lost no time taking us to Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, fostering in us a deep love of American history and culture, and ensuring that we internalized the great American ideals of freedom, faith and responsibility.

My parents worked hard and overcame many obstacles to become respected professionals in American medicine and law, and equally respected members of their community. I have tried to emulate my parents personally and professionally, and as a lawyer myself, I've been fortunate to work in government, the private sector, and academia. My life is a testament to the transformative power of American opportunity.

As a young lawyer, I served in the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. I came away from that

experience with deep respect for the authority that government lawyers exercise and the responsibility that comes with that power.

After government service, I spent nearly twenty years at one of the world's largest financial services companies, advising on significant legal and regulatory matters in the banking sector.

As a business lawyer, I saw firsthand the importance of intelligent and effective governmental oversight of industry. Equally, I learned the importance of respecting and empowering innovation, hard work, and the spirit of entrepreneurship that have enabled our country to secure its leading position in global commerce. I drew the same conclusions during my years as a partner at a leading U.S. law firm.

For the past six years, I served as chief legal officer at McKinsey, an American company that pioneered the profession of management consulting nearly a century ago. As the first lawyer elected a senior partner at McKinsey and the first to serve on its management team, I counseled the firm's leadership on legal and risk, as well as business and cultural issues.

Over the past three decades, I've also been active in the academic and non-profit arenas, serving multiple times as a visiting professor of law, a lecturer in ethics, and as editor of a book on negotiating the resolution of business disputes. I've been a trustee of many non-profit boards, including the Practising Law Institute, a nearly century-old legal education organization, and the Touro Synagogue Foundation which preserves an 18th century synagogue in Rhode Island that symbolizes our nation's commitment to religious freedom.

I believe my public, private and academic experience, my commitment to the rule of law, and my desire to help safeguard the well-being of our country – equip me well to proudly serve as General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

If I'm honored to be confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee, and with stakeholders inside and outside government, to help augur an era of greatness for American commerce, and prosperity for our nation.

Thank you.