

**Statement of
Steven P. Croley**

**Nominee to be
General Counsel
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

November 14, 2013

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski, distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you all very much for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is a great honor.

First, I would like to thank President Obama for nominating me to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Energy. If confirmed, I would work very hard to justify the confidence he has placed in me to serve in that role.

I also want to thank Secretary Moniz, for his confidence too, in asking me to serve as his counsel. I would be privileged to advise him and his team as they work to ensure the Nation's energy supply, support our economic growth, and safeguard our national security.

I would also like to thank my wife, Bridget, my children, Jack, Anna, Harry, and Matt, my parents Harold and Martha, and my friends and colleagues for their love, support, and good example. Without the encouragement of my family, I would not be here today.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the General Counsel is the principal legal officer of the Energy Department. The General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel to the Secretary and his colleagues, represents the Department before other Federal agencies, and works with the Department of Justice to represent the Energy Department in the federal courts. Fundamentally, the General Counsel is responsible for ensuring that the Department operates in full compliance with the law. Of course, the General Counsel does not do all of this alone; the Department has a dedicated and knowledgeable staff of attorneys. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with them, learning from them, and drawing on their deep expertise.

I grew up in a small town in mid-Michigan, and attended college at the University of Michigan. After graduation, I attended the Yale Law School. Then, following a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Stephen F. Williams on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, I attended graduate school at Princeton University, where I earned a Ph.D. in Politics. In 1993, I returned to my home State to join the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School. I was subsequently promoted to Professor, and later named the Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law. From 2003 to 2006, I served as the Law School's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In 2010, I was elected into the American Law Institute. In 2004, I received the American Bar Association's award for Distinguished Scholarship in Administrative Law.

I did not attend law school in order to become a scholar, however. I always aspired to serve others, and serve the public. After earning tenure in 1998, I began representing individual clients in various civil and criminal matters in state and federal court. In 2006, I became a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan. Until 2010, I represented the United States in affirmative and defensive civil litigation. Handling discovery, dispositive motions, trials, and appeals in civil fraud cases, constitutional cases, environmental matters, forfeiture claims, immigration cases, and tort claims, among others, I gained invaluable litigation experience. It was a great privilege to represent the interests of the United States in court.

In 2010, I joined the Domestic Policy Council at the White House, where I served as Special Assistant to the President for Justice and Regulatory Policy. In 2011, I joined the Office of White House Counsel as a Senior Counsel to the President. In 2012, I was named Deputy Counsel to the President. As Deputy White House Counsel, I have managed a team of lawyers who work on the full range of domestic legal issues. I have also worked closely with the Department of Justice and the Office of Management and Budget. Energy issues have been one of my own areas of focus. My experience as Deputy White House Counsel would serve me well in assisting Secretary Moniz and other clients at the Department of Energy.

Yet, no one does his or her best work alone; at least I do not. I am a strong believer in teamwork. If confirmed, I would not only depend on my colleagues at the Department, but also seek opportunities to work closely with this Committee. I would strive to prove myself collegial, pragmatic, and tireless to you and your staffs.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.