

**Remarks for Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Investiture of Sally Q. Yates
as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia
Friday, June 11, 2010
Atlanta, GA**

Thank you, Kent [Alexander]. It's an honor to stand with you, a truly great former United States Attorney, Chief Judge Carnes, and so many distinguished guests, colleagues, proud family members and friends.

This is an historic day for the Northern District of Georgia. And I'm pleased to join you all in celebrating the investiture of the district's first female U.S. Attorney – my friend, colleague, and key advisor, Sally Yates.

As many of you know, Sally comes from a strong legal lineage. The law is in her genes. Not only is she the daughter of a judge, and the granddaughter of a Georgia Supreme Court justice, she is also the granddaughter of one of the very first women to be admitted to the Georgia bar. Throughout her career, Sally has built on this unique legacy and crafted her own distinguished career. And, as a former U.S. Attorney, I know that she now has the opportunity of a lifetime – to deliver justice and also to improve the quality of life for the communities, and the 6 million citizens, she serves. I am confident that she will exceed the great expectations we all have for her.

I also have no doubt that Sally will fulfill her new responsibilities with the same energy, integrity, and dedication that characterized her two decades

of service in the great office she now leads. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, as Chief of the Fraud and Public Corruption Unit, in other leadership positions in the office, Sally has demonstrated the strength of her legal skills, as well as her judgment and compassion.

Within the U.S. Attorney community that President Obama and I are constructing, Sally is already playing a leadership role. And I am grateful that she has accepted my request to serve on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee where she will help formulate policy for the Administration.

I first had the opportunity to work with Sally years ago, when she was leading the investigation and prosecution of the Olympic Park bombing case. She immediately impressed me and everyone else in Washington. Not only does Sally possess a deep understanding of complex legal and national security issues, she also has the courage to take on difficult cases, to combat public corruption, and to fight for the rights of the most vulnerable among us. Sally is decisive. She is optimistic. She demands and inspires integrity in those around her. And she has great faith in her colleagues and in the justice system that she has spent a career serving. She is a leader.

Sally is often described as *tough, fearless, dedicated* or, simply, as *a star*. Under her guidance and leadership, I know that a great U.S. Attorney's

Office will become even better. And I'm glad to see so many members of this office here today. In the coming months, you will tackle some of the most critical and complex legal issues facing our nation. You will be called on to insure our nation's security, to improve public safety, to combat violent crime and international drug cartels, to protect our children from harm and exploitation, to strengthen relationships with local law enforcement, and – above all – to ensure that justice is pursued and administered in a fair and impartial manner.

As you fulfill these critical responsibilities, know that you have the unwavering support of the Justice Department's senior leadership -- starting with me and with your new United States Attorney. I will be counting on each of you, and I look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the days ahead, as this office begins an historic new chapter.

Sally, it's a pleasure to congratulate you on your appointment and to thank you for enthusiastically accepting this opportunity to serve.

Now, your Honor, on behalf of the United States, it's my privilege to move that you administer the Oath of Office to Sally Yates to be the next United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.