

**Public Roundtable by the Committee of the Whole On  
PR19-0250, “THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITOR YOLANDA  
BRANCHE APPOINTMENT APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2011”**

**Testimony presented by**

**John W. Hill**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 1:00 PM  
Before the Committee of the Whole  
John A. Wilson Building, Room 500  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW**

Good afternoon, Chairman Brown and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is John Hill, and I am pleased to be here to enthusiastically support the candidacy and confirmation of Yolanda Branche to a term as the District of Columbia Auditor.

I have known Yolanda Branche since the summer of 1996 when she applied for a position with the newly formed DC Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority; better known as the DC Control Board. I was the first Executive Director of the Control Board and remember the interview vividly because it was apparent from the start I was the one being interviewed and not the other way around. Ms. Branche came highly recommended by Constance Berry Newman, one of the presidentially appointed control

board members. The decision to offer the position of Chief of Staff was completely mine and it was one of the best hiring decisions I have ever made; one that I would repeat several times. As Chief of Staff, Ms. Branche was involved in almost every decision I made at the Control Board and involved in the work product, our analyses, strategy, and reports. She performed exceptionally well under constant time and political pressure.

I left the Control Board in May of 1999 and took a position as Sr. Manager at Andersen with the expectation I would create a staff of experts in State and Local Government consulting. I became the Partner-in-Charge of Andersen's State and Local Government Consulting Practice for North America. I asked Yolanda Branche to join me at Andersen in 2000 as a Sr. Manager responsible for the work we were doing in Flint Michigan to help the Mayor and city council navigate a financial and operations crisis. She led the onsite team of several consultants/auditors, made recommendations directly to the Mayor and his senior management team in economic development, fiscal responsibility and cash management.

There would be two other opportunities for Yolanda Branche and I to work together; In2Books, Inc, a not for profit corporation dedicated to helping children improve their literacy skills and working with teachers in professional development and the Mayor Williams' Blue Ribbon Panel on the future of the District of Columbia Public Library System. At In2Books, Inc. I was the CEO and I hired Ms. Branche as the Vice President helping to implement the program and develop strategies

for its successful roll out. I was Vice Chair of the Mayor's Task Force and Ms. Branche was the Executive Director who handled all the logistics. Ms. Branche worked with all members on the report and was instrumental in setting the stage for the successful implementation of the Mayor's strategy to improve our library system. In both positions she did exceptional work.

In summary I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Yolanda Branche in many different positions and organizations since 1996. I also understand the importance of the position for which she is being considered based on my past experience as an Auditor in the private sector, as a Director at GAO and my work with the Control Board. I cannot think of anyone I know who would be better suited in experience, personality, tact, command for the subject matter and ability to communicate than Yolanda Branche. That is why I am here personally to highly and enthusiastically recommend her for this position without any reservations.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole thank you for providing me this opportunity to testify and I am willing to answer any questions you may have at the appropriate time.