



ROY BLUNT *of* MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN

**Chairman Blunt's Opening Statement
Nomination Hearing for Members of the Federal Election Commission
November 18, 2020**

Shana M. Broussard, Sean J. Cooksey and Allen Dickerson are the President's nominees to be Members of the Federal Election Commission. As our witnesses are joining us remotely, I understand their families and friends are watching today, so I welcome them, as well.

Mr. Allen Dickerson is the nominee to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, for a term expiring on April 30, 2025.

Mr. Dickerson has been practicing law for twenty years, primarily in the areas of First Amendment and campaign finance.

Since 2011, Mr. Dickerson has been the Legal Director for the Institute for Free Speech, a nonprofit organization that litigates First Amendment and campaign finance cases in state and federal courts.

Mr. Dickerson is also a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps for the United States Army Reserve.

He and his wife, Rachel, have one child, Aurelia, and are expecting a second child.

Ms. Shana M. Broussard is the nominee to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, for a term expiring on April 30, 2023.

Ms. Broussard was born on Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara, California, but she hails from Louisiana. She graduated from Dillard University in 1991 and Southern University Law School in 1995.

Ms. Broussard has had a 25-year legal career. The last 12 of which, she has worked at the FEC, first as an enforcement attorney in the Office of General Counsel until 2015, and then as Executive Assistant to Commissioner Walther since 2015.

Ms. Broussard also worked at the Internal Revenue Service; in Louisiana as a prosecutor for the Attorney General and Orleans Parish District Attorney; and, as a clerk for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Earlier this year, this Committee gathered to confirm a nominee restore a quorum to the FEC. Since the confirmation of Commissioner Trey Trainor, the FEC, once again, lost a quorum with the resignation of Commissioner Caroline Hunter in July of 2020.

The confirmation of these three nominees before the Committee today will restore a quorum at the FEC. But, more importantly, the confirmation of these three nominees will restore a full slate of commissioners to the FEC for the first time since February of 2017.

While the FEC is authorized to have six commissioners, it currently only has three. Only one—Commissioner Trainor—serves on an unexpired term. The other two commissioners serve on hold over status, as their terms expired years ago—Commissioner Walther’s in 2009; and Commissioner Weintraub’s in 2007.

While a quorum allows the FEC to hold hearings, make new rules, issue advisory opinions, conduct investigations, or approve enforcement actions, a full slate of commissioners means that the FEC is not hobbled and is able to continue its work when a single commissioner departs the agency.

The Federal Election Commission plays a vital role for federal campaign committees. As I mentioned in our last hearing for an FEC nominee, as a former Secretary of State, I worked with the FEC on a regular basis and, since that time, I have run in nine federal elections. I know how important a fully-functioning FEC is to federal candidates who need to avail themselves of the FEC’s guidance and advisory opinions. I also know how important the stability of the agency is to the regulated community.

I look forward to hearing testimony from our nominees today. And, I look forward to having a full slate of commissioners at the FEC again.

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