

NADIA SHIHATA - OPENING STATEMENT

Good morning, Chair Ung and the members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the Council considers my nomination to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Investigation.

DOI serves as the City's independent Inspector General, with a critical dual mission: to root out corruption, waste, abuse and other misconduct in City government, and also to help prevent such misconduct and waste from occurring in the first place. Its broad jurisdiction covers not only City agencies, employees, and elected officials, but also contractors, nonprofits, and other recipients of City funds. DOI thus plays a critical role in protecting public resources, ensuring the effective delivery of City services, and strengthening New Yorkers' trust in their government.

I am honored to have been nominated to lead this important Department and, if confirmed, I will take on this role with a deep respect for DOI's mandate and a clear commitment to independence, fairness, and transparency.

I also intend to work constructively with the City Council. Like DOI, the Council serves an important oversight function and there are meaningful opportunities for the work of DOI and the Council to inform and complement one another -- whether through the Council uncovering areas that warrant further investigation by DOI; or DOI's findings shining a light on areas where further Council oversight may be useful or new legislation may be warranted. If confirmed, I will ensure an open dialogue between myself and the Council.

Before discussing further how I would approach the role of DOI Commissioner, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself and my qualifications for this position.

I'm an immigrant to this country and a naturalized citizen. Born abroad to Egyptian parents, I moved here at the age of five and grew up in Washington, DC. I proudly became a U.S. citizen while in college -- a decision that has allowed me to pursue a fulfilling career engaged mostly in public service.

I attended the University of Michigan Law School, where I served as Editor-in-Chief of the Michigan Law Review. After law school, I clerked for a federal judge and worked as a litigation associate at large law firms in Washington, DC and New York.

I later pursued an LLM in International Legal Studies at NYU and moved to the Hague, where I worked as a war crimes prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

In 2011, I returned to New York to join the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn, where I had the privilege of serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for over 11 years. I served in the General Crimes, Organized Crime and Gangs, and Public Integrity

Sections, and held senior leadership roles in the Office, including as Chief of the Organized Crime and Gangs Section and Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section.

In these roles, I regularly made decisions about how to deploy limited resources for maximum impact, and worked closely with federal, state and local law enforcement partners to conduct thorough, evidence-driven investigations.

Over the course of my career as a prosecutor, I conducted and supervised complex investigations involving civil rights violations, public corruption, fraud, racketeering, and violent crime, including murder. Many of these cases involved holding powerful individuals accountable, often for committing crimes against the most vulnerable among us. For example, I led the investigation of federal correctional officers, including two Lieutenants, for sexual abuse of female inmates at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. I prosecuted singer R. Kelly in a groundbreaking case where we used the racketeering statute to hold him accountable for decades of abuse of girls and young women throughout the country. I also prosecuted an active-duty NYPD officer, for his involvement in a violent extortion scheme targeting small business owners in an immigrant community in Astoria.

My work as a federal prosecutor required independence, discretion, and the ability to follow the facts wherever they led – without fear or favor – whether that resulted in criminal charges or closing an investigation when the evidence did not support seeking an indictment. Throughout, my north star was – and will continue to be – making independent decisions based on the facts and the law.

In 2022, I left government to co-found a small law firm focused on civil rights and sexual misconduct matters, internal investigations, and criminal defense. That work deepened my understanding of the importance of fair and due process, the need for strong reporting mechanisms, and for institutional accountability when those mechanisms fail or don't exist. I've since left the firm, but its work continues through my amazing and talented former partners.

I look forward to returning to public service and believe my experience, skills, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law will serve me well as DOI Commissioner.

If confirmed, I will focus on three fundamentals:

First, preserving DOI's investigative independence. DOI's effectiveness depends on its ability to pursue investigations based on the evidence and the law, without fear or favor, no matter where that leads. That is how I approached investigations as a federal prosecutor and that is how I will lead DOI.

Second, ensuring that DOI has the resources and capacity to fulfill its critical mandate effectively. That means being a relentless advocate for DOI's funding, but also ensuring its limited resources are used wisely, focusing on areas of where the risk of corruption is highest, public safety is endangered, and our most vulnerable communities are affected. It also means

continuing to invest in DOI's workforce – recruiting, retaining, and developing talented investigators, attorneys, analysts, and other professionals; and fostering a welcoming, diverse workplace where people want to build their careers.

Third, ensuring that DOI's impressive track record and work continues to lead to meaningful results. That includes pursuing individual accountability through investigations and referrals for prosecution, but it also means strengthening DOI's proactive work in identifying systemic risks, issuing practical and actionable recommendations for reform, and following up to ensure accepted recommendations are in fact implemented. In this regard, I also intend to assess and enhance DOI's use of data analytics to detect patterns of risk, look at opportunities to augment training efforts, and explore whether there is room to leverage DOI's monitorship experience to include consideration of additional DOI-supervised monitorships for large-scale City projects to prevent fraud and waste in real-time, as DOI has done with its Asylum Seeker Monitorship.

In closing, if confirmed, I look forward to serving with, and learning from, the dedicated public servants at DOI who advance its essential mission every day. I also look forward to working with this Council, City Hall and agencies across City government to help ensure that New York City can effectively meet the needs of its residents while operating with integrity, accountability, and fairness for all.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Julie Menin, Speaker
The Honorable Dr. Nantasha Williams, Deputy Speaker
The Honorable Sandra Ung, Chair, Committee on Rules,
Privileges, Elections, Standards and Ethics
Elected Members
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Subject: Commendation in Support of Nadia Shihata, Nominee for Commissioner of the
Department of Investigation

To the Honorable Julie Menon, Speaker; Dr. Nantasha Williams, Deputy Speaker; the Honorable
Sandra Ung, Chair, Committee on Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards and Ethics; and
Members of the New York City Council:

I write in support of Ms. Nadia Shihata's nomination to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI) for the City of New York. I have known Ms. Shihata for over twenty years and can unequivocally attest that she has a demonstrated track record of executing her duties as a federal prosecutor and lawyer in private practice exceptionally well and without fear or favor. These skills will enable her to effectively lead the DOI as the agency that investigates and exposes corruption, waste, and fraud in City government; prevents future misconduct by proposing policy and procedural changes; and provides transparency on investigative findings.

I met Ms. Shihata during the first days of our three-year journey through the halls and complex courses at the University of Michigan Law School. During law school, Ms. Shihata was a star student. Ms. Shihata's work ethic and notable acumen led to her outstanding academic performance. She graduated in the top two percent of her class and received the Bates Memorial Scholarship, the law school's highest honor. Ms. Shihata was not only esteemed by the law school faculty and administration, her peers and colleagues respected and admired her. As a testament of her peers' appreciation for her intellect and leadership, Ms. Shihata was selected to serve as the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the Michigan Law Review, one of the most coveted achievements for law students, where she managed a staff of approximately 100 students in publishing eight issues of the law journal each year and organized an annual symposium. Ms. Shihata was also a finalist in the Law School's prestigious moot court competition.

Today, more than twenty years later, I continue to be impressed by Ms. Shihata's work ethic, depth of character, and commitment to the foundational principles that have guided her service to the profession and the country. Based on my engagement with Ms. Shihata and my observations of her carrying out her professional duties, as well as engaging with peers and senior-ranking government officials over more than two decades, I believe that Ms. Shihata's capabilities and background will enable her to effectively lead the DOI and serve the City of New York well.

I currently serve as the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. In September of 2021, President Joseph R. Biden nominated me to serve as a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). In March of 2022, I was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. In my role as a CFTC Commissioner, I participated directly in decisions to advance enforcement matters from early-stage investigations through trials or settlement in matters that alleged violations of federal financial markets law and regulation. In June 2024, President Biden nominated me to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury). Had I been confirmed, serving in Treasury would have expanded the scope of my duties, particularly duties related to enforcement of federal regulations.

Prior to my service as an appointee in the Biden Administration, I served as a tenured law professor and Dean of Faculty Research at various institutions, including Emory University Law School and, Tulane University Law School. I began my law teaching career in the New York metropolitan area, where I taught law school courses for a decade and lived on the Upper West Side, Manhattan and Park Slope, Brooklyn. In 2016, I was elected to the American Law Institute and I am also an American Bar Foundation Fellow. I have been a member of the New York State Bar since 2004 and prior to law school served as an analyst at Goldman Sachs and following law school as an associate at a New York based, large law firm and later as Vice President and Associate General Counsel at JP Morgan in New York City.

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As a close friend of Ms. Shihata, I have had the privilege of witnessing her personal and professional growth throughout her career. Sitting in the courtroom during trials that she led early in her career at the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of New York, it was clear that Ms. Shihata was not only effective in her representation, but her professionalism garnered the respect of her fellow federal prosecutors, opposing counsel, and the judges who presided over the trials that I observed. Ms. Shihata's appointment as Chief of the Organized Crime and Gangs Section and Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section further evidence the broad support from peers and supervisors that Ms. Shihata enjoyed while serving as a federal prosecutor.

Indeed, it is difficult to overstate Ms. Shihata's talents and capabilities. In environments full of smart, seasoned lawyers, Ms. Shihata's ability to navigate the complexities and intricacies of law and legal practice stands out. As a federal prosecutor, she has held powerful individuals accountable for victimizing the most vulnerable among us, whether they be celebrity musicians or law enforcement officers.

I offer my utmost support for Ms. Shihata's nomination without any reservation. While you may easily observe from her accomplishments that Ms. Shihata is diligent and focused, it bears noting that she is also tremendously thoughtful and collegial. She is also very generous with her time, making herself available to help young prosecutors and lawyers navigate the practice and providing career advice for those interested in careers in government service or private practice.

Should you have any questions or should you wish to discuss Ms. Shihata's qualifications further, please feel free to contact me at kristin.johnson@law.gwu.edu.

Respectfully,
Kristin Johnson
/s/

Kristin Johnson
Former Commissioner, U.S. CFTC
Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law
George Washington University Law School
Cambridge University Judge School of Business
[Center for Alternative Finance](#), Research Fellow
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Christopher Leon Johnson

[REDACTED]

Brooklyn ny 11213

[REDACTED]

4/8/26

My name is Christopher Leon Johnson and I support the confirmation of Nadia Shihata as the commissioner of the DOI. THANK YOU.

CHRISTOPHER Leon Johnson

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/6/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NADIA SHIHATA

Address: [Redacted] Brooklyn, NY 11249

I represent: Myself (nominee for DOE Council)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

*Nomination of
Nadia Shihata*

Date: 4/6/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kristin Mace

Address: Covington & Burling LLP, 30 Hudson Yards, NYC

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

nadia shihata

Date: 4/6/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Cruz Melendez

Address: [Redacted] Jersey City NJ

I represent: _____

Address: _____