



Kerri E. Chewning
President

Elizabeth J. Sher
President-Elect

Ricardo Solano Jr.
First Vice President

Victor A. Afanador
Second Vice President

Susan M. Leming
Secretary

Rebekah Conroy
Treasurer

Edward T. Kole
Immediate Past President



**Association of the
Federal Bar of New Jersey**
Post Office Box 285
Caldwell, NJ 07006
(973) 327-7505
www.AFBNJ.com

 @AFBNJ

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Zahid R. Quraishi to the District Court for the
District of New Jersey

Dear Honorable Senators:

I write as the President of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey to express the Association's strong support for the confirmation of Zahid R. Quraishi to serve as a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Zahid N. Quraishi began serving as a Magistrate Judge for the District in June of 2019. Before his selection as a Magistrate Judge, he served in private practice at the Riker Danzig firm where he was the chair of the White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Group. He also served as the Chief Diversity Officer for the firm. Before his work in private practice, Magistrate Judge Quraishi served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of New Jersey and prior to that, he served as an Assistant Chief Counsel with the Department of Homeland Security. Magistrate Judge Quraishi also served honorably in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Magistrate Judge Quraishi has had the opportunity to practice both criminal and civil law in the District of New Jersey. His experience on the bench, and before his appointment as a Magistrate Judge, makes him uniquely qualified to fill this critical vacancy in the District of New Jersey.

Magistrate Judges in the District of New Jersey play a critical role in the day-to-day management of litigation matters. On the civil side, they address the full spectrum of non-dispositive issues before the court including, case management, discovery disputes, and alternative dispute resolution. Magistrate Judges also handle an array of criminal proceedings, including initial appearances and bail hearings. As such, serving as a Magistrate Judge in the District of New Jersey is a position that comes with significant responsibility and experience.

Since the time that Magistrate Judge Quraishi took the bench, he has deftly implemented a practical and thoughtful approach to the management of litigation before the Court. In light of the significant caseload shouldered by the judges in this District, the bench is in need of efficient, fair, and practical jurists who can ensure that the objectives set forth in Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which aspire to provide "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination" of proceedings, are met.

Association of the Federal Bar
of New Jersey



April 23, 2021

Page 2

Magistrate Judge Quraishi's experience on the bench will prove invaluable for him in assuming the responsibilities of an Article III judge and his history of public service to his country and the citizens of this District make him highly qualified to continue his service as a district court judge.

Magistrate Judge Quraishi's commitment to the bench and bar in this District is demonstrated by his efforts off the bench as well. Before becoming a Magistrate Judge, he served diligently as an active Trustee for the Association. And since his appointment, he has become a valued member of our Advisory Board and has continued to be a zealous participant in AFBNJ programs. He has also been instrumental in the District Court's Re-Entry program, which is designed to help recently released federal inmates re-integrate successfully into society. For all of these reasons, this endorsement is enthusiastically sent on behalf of the Association of the Federal Bar.

I extend my personal endorsement as well. As a practitioner with more than 20 years of litigation experience before the District Court in the District of New Jersey, and a former law clerk to District Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., I have the familiarity and perspective to personally attest that Magistrate Judge Quraishi's experience, temperament, and work ethic make him uniquely qualified to serve as an Article III jurist.

In sum, Magistrate Judge Quraishi's mix of intelligence, practicality, fairness, humility, and humanity make him an excellent choice to serve lawyers and litigants alike in the District of New Jersey. Accordingly, the Association provides its unfettered endorsement in support of Magistrate Judge Quraishi's confirmation.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kerri E. Chewning", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

KERRI E. CHEWNING
President