



April 26, 2021

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: **Letter of Support for Zahid N. Quraishi for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) extends its strong support for the historic nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Zahid N. Quraishi to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. If confirmed, Judge Quraishi will be the first Asian Pacific American to serve as a federal district court judge in New Jersey and the first American Muslim to serve as an Article III judge in the United States.

NAPABA is the largest Asian Pacific American membership organization representing the interests of over 50,000 attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, and nearly 90 national, state, and local affiliate bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal services and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA is the leading national voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession.

Judge Quraishi has a distinguished legal career with extensive experience as prosecutor, in the private sector, and serving his country in uniform. In 2019, Judge Quraishi was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey, becoming the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the federal bench in New Jersey. Prior to his appointment, he was Chair of Riker Danzig's White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Group and the firm's first Chief Diversity Officer.

Judge Quraishi has an impressive record of public service evincing his longstanding commitment to justice and this country. His government service includes over five years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, where he tried numerous federal criminal cases involving public corruption, financial fraud, weapons, and drug cases as part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and the Government Frauds Unit of the Criminal Division. He also served as Assistant Chief Counsel and trial attorney with the Department of Homeland Security.

A decorated war veteran, Judge Quraishi served as a military prosecutor with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, achieving the rank of Captain. He was assigned to the First Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was awarded a Bronze Star

Medal; Army Combat Action Badge; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service & Expeditionary Medals; Army Commendation and Achievement Medals, among other awards for his service to the United States.

Judge Quraishi is a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. He received a J.D. from Rutgers Law School in Newark, where he was a member of the Rutgers Moot Court Board and served as Managing Business Editor of the *Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal*.

Active in the Asian Pacific American community, Judge Quraishi is endorsed by NAPABA's affiliate, the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA-NJ) and was the recipient of its Professional Achievement Award in 2019. He is also the recipient of the South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey Standing Ovation Award, the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association Trailblazer of the Year Award, and the Rutgers Muslim Law Student Association Trailblazer Award. Last year, Judge Quraishi was the Rutgers Asian Pacific American Law Student Association's Lunar Banquet Distinguished Honoree. He has also been recognized for his work by Best Lawyers, Chambers USA, and Super Lawyers.

Judge Quraishi is well qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey and NAPABA strongly supports his nomination, and urges his swift confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Priya Purandare". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Priya Purandare
Executive Director