



# SABA-NJ

The South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey

## Executive Board | 2021

### *President,*

Bhaveen R. Jani, Esq.

### *President-Elect,*

Rachna B. Malkana, Esq.

### *Vice – President,*

Rippi K. Karda, Esq.

### *Treasurer,*

Akshar Patel, Esq.

### *Co-Secretaries,*

Chinsu Shajan, Esq.

Nakul Y. Shah, Esq.

### *Public Relations Director,*

Tanya Y. Shah, Esq.

### *Director of Sponsorships,*

Jason Sumbaly, Esq.

### *Law Student Liaison,*

Kedar Venkataramani

### *Immediate Past President,*

Rahil Darbar, Esq.

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

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

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

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

April 21, 2021

## **Re: Nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi to the District Court for the District of New Jersey**

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We would like to start by saying thank you. President Biden's historic nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, U.S.M.J., to the District Court for the District of New Jersey is personal for us at the South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey ("SABA-NJ"). Judge Quraishi has deep ties to SABA-NJ and we have had the distinct pleasure to know him as an Assistant United States Attorney, as a partner at large New Jersey law firm, and now as a Magistrate Judge. Throughout his exemplar career, Judge Quraishi has stayed true to himself and to all those around him.

SABA-NJ's mission is to advocate for, educate, and ultimately provide opportunities for South Asian attorneys in New Jersey. We provide regular CLE events, panel discussions, networking events, job listings, and, have a Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee ("JPAC") for our members and all New Jersey attorneys. Judge Quraishi has been an active member of our organization for a

number of years by joining us at networking events, mentoring young attorneys, engaging in panel discussions, and giving us his unconditional support.

In fact, Judge Quraishi's service extends far beyond his involvement with SABA-NJ. Judge Quraishi is a member of various other minority bar associations in New Jersey, he was engaged heavily with the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, APALA-NJ, NJMLA, he teaches a trial skills and advocacy course at Rutgers Law School, has engaged in panels at Seton Hall Law School, and too many more to count. In each of his endeavors, Judge Quraishi has enriched the lives of everyone he has encountered and has built a reputation of excellence, reliability, and, in our view, most importantly, a commitment to service.

If this Honorable Committee and the Honorable Senate do vote to confirm Judge Quraishi, he will be the first Asian-America and South Asian-American Judge appointed to the District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the first Muslim-American Judge appointed to the Federal Bench in the entire country. We add this not as an additional qualification of Judge Quraishi's, but rather to highlight the significant issue in our District and around the country: there is a lack of Federal Judges who look like us. We assure you, a lack of talent is not the cause. Though we ask you to consider the significance your vote will have for people like us at SABA-NJ, we strongly believe Judge Quraishi's qualifications and character are second to none. In our joint pursuit of a more perfect union, we must advocate for qualified candidates when they come before us.

SABA-NJ respectfully submits its strong endorsement for Zahid N. Quraishi. In our view, it is the perfect opportunity to confirm a nominee who is beyond qualified, having served his Country in various capacities, from serving in the Army, to the JAG Corp, to the Department of Homeland Security, to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, to his present role as a Magistrate Judge, has a stellar reputation among his colleagues on the Bench and in the Bar, and has shown his character as among the finest this nation has ever seen.

We advise all members of this Honorable Committee and all Senators to confirm Judge Quraishi unanimously, in a bipartisan fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

The South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey