

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The following twenty Jewish community organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of members, write to express our strong support for the nomination of Nancy Abudu to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judges and an unbiased judiciary are deeply admired and revered in Judaism. Ms. Abudu is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the Court. Just on the other side of our holy days of Passover, celebrating liberation and a more just future, Ms. Abudu's record fighting for reproductive autonomy, worker's rights, voting rights, and religious freedom feels all the more apt. It is said in the Talmud that, in the days when the world is more perfect, we will remember not just the liberation from Egypt, but the liberation of all people from oppression. Ms. Abudu's work brings us closer to that more perfect world.

Over a long career focused on upholding rights and liberties, Ms. Abudu has demonstrated her commitment to equal justice and fairness under the law. She has frequently provided legal representation to many of those least able to represent themselves, including people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals facing discrimination because of their faith. For example, in 2015, Ms. Abudu represented a Hasidic Jew, Benjamin Newmark, who alleged that he had been subjected to religious discrimination during his employment with the Sheriff's Office in Collier County, Florida. Mr. Newmark alleged that his supervisors frequently made fun of his attire, scheduled him to work on the Sabbath, and tried to pressure him into eating pork and other prohibited foods — even though they were aware that his religious observance prohibited him from doing so.

Ms. Abudu's entire career has been in service to the highest ideals of justice and equality — and to the ethical treatment of every human being. We strongly believe that, in the best traditions of our faith, Ms. Abudu will “not show partiality to the poor nor favoritism to the great, but will judge her neighbor fairly” (Leviticus 19:15).

We urge you to support the confirmation of Nancy Abudu to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sincerely,

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal
Ameinu
Avodah
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Carolina Jews for Justice
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Jewish Democratic Council of America
Jewish Democratic Women's Salon, Atlanta
Keshet
National Council of Jewish Women, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Florida
National Council of Jewish Women, Georgia
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota Manatee Section
New York Jewish Agenda
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Shalom Center
Tzedek Georgia