

April 26, 2022

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA) is an ecumenical network of progressive ministers dedicated to equipping clergy and laity to advocate for social justice. Because we strongly believe in the importance of the courts, we, the undersigned members of AAMIA, are heartened by President Biden's nomination of Nancy Abudu of Georgia to be a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

A daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, Abudu has dedicated her career to challenging systems of injustice. She is the Strategic Litigation Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center, where she works to protect the voting rights of communities of color and other historically disenfranchised groups, primarily in the Deep South. She previously was the legal director of the ACLU of Florida and, before that, was an attorney on the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. She is an experienced courtroom lawyer and expert on criminal justice, the right to vote, religious freedom, and other civil liberties.

Abudu has used her talents to ensure that all people have access to the basic guarantees of due process, equal protection, and fundamental fairness. That is exactly the kind of commitment our judges need, since the purpose of our courts is to make sure that everyone's rights are protected.

Of the Eleventh Circuit's 21 active and senior judges, only one is Black: Judge Charles Wilson, who was nominated by President Clinton back in the 1990s and is eligible to retire. And no Black woman has ever served on that court. That must change!

We, the undersigned members of AAMIA, support President Biden's nomination of Nancy Abudu to the Eleventh Circuit. She will help bring fair treatment under the law to all the people of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

Sincerely,

Rev. Leslie Watson Wilson
African American Ministers In Action
Linden, NJ

Presiding Elder Kevin Agee
Washington-Virginia District, Christian
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Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens
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Ms. Caroline Smith
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Sister Pamela Walker
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Ms. Mabel Wheatle
Zion Baptist Church
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Rev. Dorothy Chaney
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