

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 31, 2021

Re: Tulane Law Alumni Letter in support of Nancy Abudu, nominee for United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley and Member Kennedy:

We are alumni of Tulane Law School, including many current Louisiana residents, and we write to convey our strongest support for the nomination of Nancy Abudu to join the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Abudu is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the court and will bring with her both deep experience in litigation before the court and a rich understanding of the Constitution and laws she will take an oath to uphold.

Tulane's motto is "Non sibi, sed suis," or "Not for oneself, but for one's own" and Ms. Abudu's professional career is a reflection of this devotion to uphold legal principles and serve the public. Ms. Abudu's trajectory includes early career positions as an associate at a large, traditional law firm and as a staff attorney at the Eleventh Circuit, where she experienced first-hand the distinct roles of the judges for whom she worked and the advocates who appeared before them. In 2005, Ms. Abudu made a choice to devote her education and experience to advocating for the protection of constitutional rights guaranteed to all Americans. Her work, first with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and later with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), focused on providing legal representation to those least able to represent themselves.

Ms. Abudu's intellect, legal acumen, sound judgment, passion for justice, and impeccable integrity – qualities she will bring to the Court – have lent themselves to a remarkable career. In addition to being a gifted litigator, Ms. Abudu has become a leading and respected voice on civil and human rights. She excelled while at Tulane and participated as a student attorney in the Environmental Law Clinic. She is also a Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow, has served as an international election observer in Albania, and is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law as well as the ABA's Working Group on Building Trust in the American Justice System. An accomplished writer, she also has published numerous legal articles and two book chapters.

Throughout the years, Ms. Abudu has devoted her considerable energy and talents to upholding the rights of those for whom she advocated – from veterans and others with disabilities, to people of faith seeking religious accommodations and protection from discrimination, people experiencing homelessness, and people seeking to exercise the right to vote. She has done so zealously, as an ethical lawyer’s oath requires, and also with excellence and integrity. If confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Abudu will uphold her oath as a judge with equal dedication by applying the Constitution and laws of our country in a fair, open-minded and impartial manner.

We urge you to support Nancy Abudu’s speedy confirmation.

Respectfully,

Lezlie A. Griffin
Class of 2007
Alabama Resident

Beverley Gordon
Class of 1994
California Resident

Andrea Gunn Eaton
Class of 1999
California Resident

Angelique So
Class of 2008
California Resident
Litigation Counsel at Lime

Jenna Raden
Class of 2020
Washington, DC Resident

Kaari Smith
Class of 2009
Georgia Resident

Fatima Harris Felton
Class of 2005
Georgia Resident

Kara Bruce
Class of 2007
Illinois Resident
Professor of Law, University of Toledo College of Law

Cashauna Hill
Class of 2005
Louisiana Resident
Executive Director, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center

Tonya Jupiter
Class of 1994
Louisiana Resident
Tulane Law School - Associate Dean of Experiential Learning and Public Interest Programs

David Ray Katner
Class of 1980
Louisiana Resident
Professor of Clinical Law, Dir. Juvenile Law Clinic

Lydia Winkler
Class of 2019
Louisiana Resident

Caroline Gabriel
Class of 2018
Louisiana Resident
Most & Associates

Morgan Williams
Class of 2007
Louisiana Resident
General Counsel, National Fair Housing Alliance

Stacy E Seicshnaydre
Class of 1992
Louisiana Resident
Professor of Law

Machelle Hall
Class of 2008
Louisiana Resident

Kara Johnson
Class of 1994
Louisiana Resident
Owner, The Cook Shop, LLC

Hardell Harachio Ward
Class of 2008
Louisiana Resident
Managing Attorney - Promise of Justice Initiative

Bethany Samhan
Class of 2020
Louisiana Resident
Staff Attorney, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights

Laurel Sheridan
Class of 2020
Louisiana Resident
Staff Immigration Attorney

Elizabeth Livingston de Calderon
Class of 1998
Louisiana Resident

Allyson R Page
Class of 2014
Louisiana Resident
Executive Director at ISLA

Devin Lowell
Class of 2015
Louisiana Resident
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Tulane Law School

Randy G. McKee
Class of 1995
Louisiana Resident
Attorney - McKee Law Firm, L.L.C.

Tiffany Delery Davis
Class of 2005
Louisiana Resident

Drew Lafontant
Class of 2018
Louisiana Resident
Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders

Smydge Perry
Class of 2002
Louisiana Resident

Avery Parder
Class of 2007
Louisiana Resident

Lauren E. Checki
Class of 2008
Louisiana Resident

Jeffrey Brooks
Class of 2006
Louisiana Resident
Preis PLC Director of Advocacy and Professional Practice
Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Andrew Jacoby
Class of 2008
Louisiana Resident

Gabriela Cruz
Class of 2021
Louisiana Resident
IJC fellow & staff attorney, Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic

Jennifer Ramo
Class of 1999
Louisiana Resident

Demelza Baer
Class of 2009
Maryland Resident
Director of Public Policy, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Eric Steinberg
Class of 2009
Maryland Resident
Attorney Advisor - U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Katherine Forde
Class of 2009
Maryland Resident

Michelle Wimes
Class of 1994
Missouri Resident
Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer

Jisook Lee
Class of 1999
New York Resident

Noel Wolfe
Class of 1999
New York Resident
Assistant Professor of History and Legal Studies Program Director
Nazareth College

Marshal Garbus
Class of 2019
New York Resident
Associate at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy

Daniele Wilson
Class of 2009
New York Resident

Olivia Woollam
Class of 2019
New York Resident

Chanel Glover
Class of 2007
Pennsylvania Resident

Tara Gilbreath Todd
Class of 2008
Tennessee Resident

Consuella Simmons Taylor
Class of 1994
Texas Resident

Jarod D Davis

Class of 2005
Texas Resident
Director, US Public Policy, Dow Inc.

Briana Hopes
Class of 2021
Texas Resident

Lori Sher
Class of 1999
Virginia Resident
Managing Director, General Counsel-Corporate

Mary Kathryn Nagle
Class of 2008
Virginia Resident
Partner, Pipestem and Nagle Law

Catherine Becker
Class of 2009
Washington Resident
Senior Trial Attorney