

January 28, 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

RE: Letter of Support for Nancy Abudu, Judicial Nominee to the Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to convey our strongest support for the nomination of Nancy Abudu to join the Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Abudu is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the Court.

Ms. Abudu is precisely the nominee needed for the vacancy on Eleventh Circuit. As organizations working and situated in the Deep South, as well as organizations that have been involved in civil rights and civic engagement work in the Deep South, we know very well the unique character, diverse communities, and challenges of the region. Ms. Abudu also has deep familiarity with the region and has made important contributions to it. Following a two-year stint as an associate at a large New York law firm after her law school graduation, Ms. Abudu chose the South as her home. Her professional experiences since then, largely in the circuit she is nominated to serve, have uniquely prepared her for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit. Indeed, in Ms. Abudu's early career she served as a staff attorney at the Eleventh Circuit, where she experienced first-hand the nature of the Court's docket, as well as 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 in Florida with the ACLU and later with SPLC in Alabama, focused on providing legal representation to those least able to represent themselves. She will bring to the Court a diverse perspective, the presence of which is vital to ensuring balance and fairness in a richly diverse region.

Ms. Abudu's intellect, legal acumen, sound judgment, passion for justice, determination, 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 has testified before Congress in her capacity as an expert on impediments to voting rights in the South. She is 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 articles and two book chapters.

Ms. Abudu has until now 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 – across the South. 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.

Signed,

ACLU of Alabama
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
Alabama Forward
Alabama Sierra Club
Alabama State Conference NAACP
Asian American Advocacy Fund
Atlanta NAACP
Bay Area Women Coalition, Incorporated
Broward for Progress
Common Cause GA
Community Justice Project
Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta
Equality Foundation of Georgia
Fair Count
Fair Elections Center
Farmworker Association of Florida
Florida Community Partnership
Florida Rising
Former State President, Georgia NAACP
Forward Justice Action Network
GALEO Impact Fund
Georgia AFL-CIO
Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda
Georgia Conservation Voters
Georgia Equality
Georgia Justice Project
Georgia Muslim Voter Project
Greater Augusta's Interfaith Coalition, CDC
Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters
HBCU Green Fund
Indivisible Georgia Coalition
Justice Collaborative
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Medical Advocacy & Outreach
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition
NAACP Florida State Conference
NARAL Pro-Choice Georgia
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Jewish Women Greater Miami
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta
National Council of Jewish Women, E Atlantic
National Council of Jewish Women, Florida
National Council of Jewish Women, Georgia
National Council of Jewish Women, Kendall
National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota Manatee
New Georgia Project
New Georgia Project Action Fund
Poder Latinx
Power Coalition for Equity and Justice
Progress Florida
Rep GA Institute, Inc.
Represent GA Action Network, Inc.
Restorative Strategies, LLC
SEIU, Workers United-Southern Region
Showing Up for Racial Justice, Atlanta
Sierra Club
Southern Center for Human Rights
The Empowerment Alliance
Tzedek Georgia
Women Watch Afrika