

July 1, 2022

Hon. Dick Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Roopali H. Desai to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin & Ranking Member Grassley:

On June 15, 2022, President Biden nominated Roopali H. Desai for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. We are a bipartisan group of appellate lawyers and litigators who have worked on cases both with and against Roopali over the course of her career. We thus have firsthand knowledge of her intellect, skills, and temperament. And though we may represent clients with divergent views, our collective experience leads us to agree on at least one thing: the Committee on the Judiciary should promptly report Roopali's nomination to the full Senate to allow her to begin what we know will be a career of honorable service to her country.

Roopali's impressive resume speaks for itself, but tells only a small part of the story. Roopali is a leader in the legal community and is respected by the bar, the bench, and the law school communities in which she spends countless hours teaching, guest-lecturing, and mentoring law students. At her firm, which is highly regarded in the legal community, Roopali has assembled an impressive group of clients who trusted her with high-level work. We have seen her written and oral advocacy skills at the administrative, trial court, and appellate levels, and can say with confidence both are in the top tier of our profession. And beyond that, she is personable and is always fair to the parties, opposing counsel, and the court. Her overall professionalism and commitment to the rule of law is why, among many other things, the Arizona Supreme Court appointed her to its Committee on Civil Justice Reform in 2016 and the prestigious American Law Institute elected her as a member just last year.

Perhaps the most important question to ask about a judicial nominee coming straight from the practice of law is whether they have the ability and temperament to successfully transition from advocate to neutral arbiter. And though some of us may disagree with some decisions that Roopali will one day take part in as a judge, we have no doubt that she will faithfully and fairly apply the law to the parties appearing before her. That's precisely what we should demand of judges, and precisely what we think Roopali will do if confirmed.

Most of us know Judge Andy Hurwitz, and all of us respect him for his long and distinguished career of service to the State of Arizona and our country. We know that Roopali is an excellent choice to fill his seat, and we urge the Committee to move promptly on her nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Timothy Berg
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/s/ Paul F. Eckstein
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/s/ Joseph I. Vigil
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/s/ Daniel Adelman
Executive Director
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Interest

* The views expressed in this letter are those of the listed individuals alone. All institutional affiliations are provided solely for purposes of identification.

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cc: Sen. Kyrsten Sinema
Sen. Mark Kelly