

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We are members of the legal community writing to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Cindy K. Chung to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Our backgrounds reflect a wide range of experiences and varied political perspectives and ideologies. What unites us is a deep appreciation for the United States of America, respect for its legal system, and a common belief that Ms. Chung is extraordinarily well-positioned to serve both institutions as a judge on the Third Circuit.

We represent academia, government, small, midsize and large law firms, public interest law, and in-house counsel, and all of us know Ms. Chung either personally, professionally, or by virtue of her sterling reputation. We each believe that Ms. Chung would bestow the Third Circuit with the same blend of intellect, wisdom, humanity, and dedication that has characterized her work as an attorney.

Ms. Chung is a remarkable lawyer whose career in public service is defined by a fierce commitment to fairness and the rule of law. Ms. Chung prosecuted the first Shepherd-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act case in the country and has litigated cases in front of federal courts in Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Her passion for equal justice, combined with a keen analytical mind and impressive command of legal history will serve her well on the court. Ms. Chung's accomplishments demonstrate that she has the intelligence, temperament, and experience required for the federal bench. She earned her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, a prestigious distinction of academic excellence. In addition, Ms. Chung was selected as a Columbia Public Interest Fellow and Managing Editor of the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law. While in law school, Ms. Chung was a judicial intern for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, then of the Second Circuit. After graduation, she served as a law clerk to Judge Myron Thompson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. In 2003, she accepted a position with the New York County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney and then joined the Official Corruption Unit as Investigation Counsel in 2007.

In 2009, Ms. Chung started as a Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section. She then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Pennsylvania in 2014. During her tenure in the U.S. Attorney's Office, she has served as Assistant U.S. Attorney, Acting Deputy Chief of the Violent Crimes Section, and Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Section. On November 23, 2021, Ms. Chung was sworn in as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Chung's commitment to public service extends beyond the workplace, as demonstrated by her contributions to legal education in Western Pennsylvania and beyond. She makes regular presentations to the public, the legal community, and law enforcement officers on topics such as federal civil rights law, federal hate crime laws, federal criminal procedure, federal statutes applicable to domestic violence situations, and federal laws governing the use of excessive force. In addition, Ms. Chung served as an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law where she taught a course focused on federal hate crimes. Ms. Chung also volunteers with local community organizations including Allegheny County Mock Trial and Tree Pittsburgh.

The nomination of Cindy K. Chung to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals is inspired. Her confirmation as the first person of Asian descent to serve on the Third Circuit would be both historic and fitting recognition of an exemplary career in public service. Ms. Chung represents the very best of our legal community and her addition to the Third Circuit would be a credit to the judicial system. Most importantly, the residents of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands would benefit immensely from the rich experience, consistent excellence, and high moral character that Ms. Chung would exhibit as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Sincerely\*,

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