

July 20, 2021

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

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

Re: Letter of Support for Sarala Vidya Nagala for the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The undersigned affinity bar associations extend their strong support for the historic nomination of Sarala Vidya Nagala to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. If confirmed, Ms. Nagala will be the first person of Asian descent, and specifically South Asian descent, to serve as an Article III judge in the District of Connecticut.

- The **Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“CAPABA”)** is the only association geared towards Asian Pacific American attorneys in Connecticut. CAPABA’s mission is to support Asian Pacific American attorneys and communities and those interested in Asian Pacific American legal issues throughout the state of Connecticut.
- The **George W. Crawford Black Bar Association (“Crawford”)** was founded in 1977 and is a volunteer state-wide organization of attorneys, judges, and law students in the State of Connecticut. Crawford represents the collective body of Black attorneys in Connecticut, including both the criminal and civil bar, public and private sector employees, and spanning across law firm, corporate and non-profit affiliations.
- The **South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (“SABAC”)** was formed in 2004 to serve as a resource to South Asian lawyers and law students for growth, professional development, networking, and community outreach. SABAC has made significant strides in advancing diversity and inclusion in the Connecticut legal community in the fifteen years since its founding.

Collectively, our organizations provide the foremost voices for the minority legal community in the state of Connecticut.

Sarala Nagala has a stellar reputation as one of Connecticut’s most accomplished public service attorneys through her experience both in the courtroom and in leading community outreach to underserved and victimized populations. She is known for being simultaneously gracious and authoritative, an ideal temperament for the federal bench.

Since 2016, Ms. Nagala has served with distinction as the Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney’s Office. She is also the USAO’s Human Trafficking Coordinator, Hate Crimes Coordinator, International Coordinator, and Diversity Committee

Chairperson, which are not just titles she holds but roles she fulfills effectively and with obvious commitment to harnessing the power of building connection. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) and her B.A. with distinction from Stanford University.

Ms. Nagala's parents immigrated to the United States in the late 1970's from India. They settled in North Dakota, where Ms. Nagala was born and raised. For many years, they were the only family of color in their town, and this immigrant experience gave Ms. Nagala a keen awareness of being different. Like many first-generation Americans, raised in dual cultures and a bilingual household, Ms. Nagala has firsthand experience navigating and successfully overcoming the challenges presented to her.

We believe that Ms. Nagala's background and record of achievement will make her a valuable member of the federal bench in this district. All who are served by that court, indeed, all of Connecticut's residents, will benefit from her service. The undersigned bar associations strongly support her nomination and swift confirmation by the Senate.

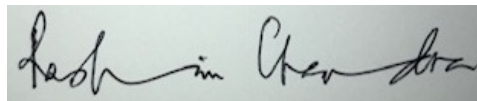
Sincerely yours,



Dan A. Brody
President, Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar
Association

Makana Ellis

Makana Ellis
President, George W. Crawford Black Bar Association



Rashmi Chandra
President, South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Christopher Murphy