



April 2, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20003

In Care Of Hanna Mori
Hanna_Mori@Booker.Senate.gov

Re: *Letter in Support of Mr. Adeel Mangi for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit*

Dear Senators Durbin, Duckworth, and Booker,

On behalf of the Muslim Bar Association of Chicago (“MBA Chicago”), I write to express our full support for the confirmation of Mr. Adeel Mangi to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. MBA Chicago is a nonprofit, professional association for lawyers and law students in the Chicagoland area. MBA Chicago strives to foster the highest ethics, integrity, and honor of the legal profession and advance and improve the administration of justice.

Mr. Mangi’s exceptional legal expertise, professional recognitions, and commitment to civil rights and equal justice for all make him an excellent candidate for the Third Circuit. Mr. Mangi has spent over two decades at his current law firm, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, where he is a Partner.¹ Throughout Mr. Mangi’s career, he has maintained a diverse state and federal litigation practice in complex, high-stakes matters across a range of subject matters including commercial contracts, false advertising, and consumer protection statutes.² Mr. Mangi recently secured the largest jury verdict in the history of the Virginia court system with a \$2 billion verdict after a seven-week jury trial in a case involving theft of trade secrets in the software industry.³ Mr. Mangi has earned a sterling reputation from his peers, who describe Mr. Mangi as “meticulous and relentless,” and “an unflappable whiz at everything he does.”⁴ *Benchmark*

¹ Patterson Belknap, “Adeel Mangi,” <https://www.pbwt.com/adeel-a-mangi>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Litigation named Mr. Mangi in its 2024 and 2023 lists as one of the “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” in the U.S., which consists of “partners who have been venerated by peers and clients as being the best in breed at the nuanced practice of trial law.”⁵ Mr. Mangi’s impressive credentials and extensive litigation experience will make him a strong addition to the federal bench.

Mr. Mangi also has an extensive pro bono practice and is a leader in the legal community. Mr. Mangi has devoted over 4,000 hours to pro bono services in his time at Patterson.⁶ For example, from 2015 to 2018, Mr. Mangi represented a local Muslim group and its officers, who successfully challenged Bernards Township and its Planning Board’s denial of their application to build a mosque. Under Mr. Mangi’s counsel, the mosque application was approved and his clients reached a \$3.25 million settlement. Mr. Mangi also represented a group of Muslim professional associations and advocacy organizations to file an amicus brief in the landmark Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, which held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects employees from discrimination because of their LGBTQ identity.⁷ In the brief, Mangi refuted the concept of employers using religious beliefs as a justification to discriminate and argued that a broad interpretation of Title VII would benefit all protected groups.⁸ Mr. Mangi’s deep commitment to advancing civil rights and equal justice for all is much needed on the federal bench and will be a great asset to the Third Circuit.

If confirmed, Mr. Mangi would be the first Muslim American to serve as a federal appellate court judge. Since his nomination by President Biden on November 15, 2023, and his confirmation hearing on December 13, 2023, Mr. Mangi has endured prejudicial, baseless, and bigoted attacks based on his Muslim identity. Mr. Mangi is indisputably qualified by any measure to serve as an appellate court judge. He is of the highest moral character. That he identifies as Muslim should be celebrated, not demonized. As his law firm partner of 25 years wrote, these attacks harken back to similar attacks against Justice Thurgood Marshall when he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.⁹ Thankfully, those attacks failed, as Justice Marshall was confirmed. The importance of confirming Mr. Mangi to the Third Circuit cannot be understated. Failure to do so will send a message to every Muslim lawyer that Muslims, regardless of their impeccable character and credentials, are not welcome to perform one of the highest forms of public service in the legal profession, serving as a judge in federal court. MBA Chicago urges members of the U.S. Senate to refrain from fueling discrimination and hate against Muslims and to offer Mr. Mangi a fair vote based on his qualifications and fitness for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, available at https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/mangi_sjq.pdf.

⁷ Patterson Belknap “Firm’s Amicus Briefs ‘On the Right Side of History’ in Landmark LGBTQ Supreme Court Decision,” June 17, 2020, <https://www.pbwt.com/news/firms-amicus-briefs-on-the-right-side-of-history-in-landmark-lgbtq-supreme-court-decision>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Gregory L. Diskant, “The Real Adeel Mangi Is Nothing Like the Caricature GOP Senators Have Invented,” March 29, 2024, <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/03/adeel-mangi-muslim-federal-court-nominee-islamophobia/677916/>.

Adeel Mangi is an excellent jurist deeply committed to equal justice for all and will make a tremendous addition to the federal appellate bench. As such, MBA Chicago offers its full support for the nomination of Adeel Mangi to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and urges the Senate to swiftly confirm him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Alsarraf', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ali Alsarraf
President
Muslim Bar Association of Chicago