



APABA DC

Asian Pacific American Bar Association

2022-2023

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Yifang Zhao

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL to:
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov
Katherine_Nikas@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

June 6, 2023

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Re: Letter in Support of the Confirmation of the Honorable Loren AliKhan for District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin, and Ranking Member Graham:

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc. ("APABA-DC"), a 501(c)(6) organization now in its forty-second year, is the oldest and largest association of Asian Pacific American attorneys in the greater Washington, D.C. area. APABA-DC is pleased to support the confirmation of the Honorable Loren AliKhan, who President Biden has nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

APABA-DC endorsed Judge AliKhan in 2020, when she successfully sought to become an Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, and we also endorsed her when she previously sought to become a District

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc.

ADDRESS Post Office Box 27223, Washington, D.C. 20038-7223 E-MAIL apaba@apaba-dc.org WEBSITE www.apaba-dc.org



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Judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 2021. Judge AliKhan's confirmation to this District Court would contribute greatly to the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.

Judge AliKhan's professional qualifications are impressive. Since 2022, she has served as an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the District's highest court authorized to review final orders of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and contested decisions of District agencies, and to answer questions of law certified by federal and state appellate courts. Prior to joining the bench, Judge AliKhan worked in the District of Columbia Office of the Solicitor General for nine years, including serving as Solicitor General from 2018 to 2022. During her service with that office she handled nearly 3,000 appeals in the D.C. Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She also routinely appeared in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, assisting in a large number of both civil and criminal cases. Beyond her direct appearances, she advised attorneys on all aspects of trial litigation, including discovery, settlement and mediation, and bench and jury trials.

Prior to joining the D.C. government, Judge AliKhan spent several years as a litigator at O'Melveny & Myers in D.C. She began her legal career with clerkships on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, followed by a Bristow Fellowship at the Office of the Solicitor General, U.S. Department of Justice. As a result of this experience, she has extensive knowledge of federal law and procedure, including specific familiarity with the docket and work of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

In addition to her substantial litigation experience, Judge AliKhan's work has received public acclaim: in 2019, she received the South Asian Bar Association of Washington D.C.'s Public Sector Trailblazer Award, given to an individual who has "demonstrated sustained excellence in public sector legal work or a specific extraordinary accomplishment in the public sector." And just as Judge AliKhan's career prior to joining the bench earned her recognition for top-quality advocacy, as a judge, she has carried forward with a commitment to justice and equal treatment of all cases and litigants.



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APABA-DC strongly believes that the federal courts should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and include jurists who are sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community. If confirmed, Judge AliKhan will be the first South Asian woman to serve as a District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She also has demonstrated a commitment to service through her involvement in a number of civic, community, and professional organizations – including through her service on the boards of the American Inns of Court, Bard College at Simon’s Rock, and the Lawyers’ Club of Washington – and has volunteered her time to promote diversity, to help more junior attorneys develop skills, and to provide educational opportunities to young people.

Judge AliKhan has participated in various programs organized by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (“AEF”), a 501(c)(3) organization established by APABA-DC for charitable and educational activities to benefit diverse law students and attorneys in the nation’s capital. Among other efforts, she has participated in the Robert E. Wone Judicial Clerkship & Internship Conference, an annual event organized by AEF to encourage more minority law students to pursue judicial internships and clerkships.

For all of these reasons, we urge the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate to confirm Judge AliKhan to become a District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration of APABA-DC’s comments in support of Judge AliKhan. Please contact us if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Yifang Zhao
President, 2022-23