

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Recommendation for Loren L. AliKhan  
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia**

Via Electronic Transmission: Senate Judiciary Committee staff and counsels

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write this letter to you to serve as our highest recommendation for Loren L. AliKhan for your consideration for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Loren is, simply put, one of the most accomplished alumni/ae to graduate from Bard College at Simon's Rock in the history of the institution, now approaching sixty years of serving highly motivated younger scholars who begin their college studies up to two years earlier than the traditional point in time. In the important Early College movement, for which Bard has set the highest standards of academic rigor, Loren's achievements are exemplary in demonstrating what can be achieved by an Early College graduate.

Loren has, over the course of more than two decades, excelled as a student academically and in leadership roles, and served as a key voice on the Board of Overseers of Bard College at Simon's Rock. As a tenth grade student, in 1999, Loren applied to attend Simon's Rock, stifled by the intellectual environment at her high school, and aspiring to be in "a world of pure education," as she wrote in her application essay. In her very first semester, in the fall of 1999, she made her first foray into the law with the course "Law, Population, Reproductive Rights," taught by faculty member and attorney Barbara Resnick. Loren thrived in the course, and she met an early mentor in Professor Resnick, who would, years later, travel to Washington to see Loren argue her first case before the Supreme Court. During Loren's years at Simon's Rock, Loren's resume reflects so many of the major honors available at the time, including the Robert Maynard Hutchins scholarship for her junior and senior years, the Dean's list consistently, and very high grades, culminating in 4.0 GPAs for each of the last three semesters, when such results were extremely rare at Simon's Rock.

# Bard College

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She was also a leader in student voice on campus, with a maturity and command that has only rarely repeated in other students who have succeeded her. It is not enough to say that she was at the top among her peers; she set a standard that in some years no student at Simon's Rock has met.

In 2003, Loren completed her B.A. degree *summa cum laude* in Politics, Law, and Society, culminating in her senior thesis entitled, "Chaining Leviathan: Creating a Space for Humanitarian Intervention," which earned high honors. Her thesis advisor, Professor Peter Cocks, commented, "She took on the pressing, vexing question of humanitarian intervention, a subject not susceptible of easy treatment by either scholars or politicians. She made a case for it with great skill, although, as I think that she would be the first to admit, making a water-tight argument for such complex political-legal issues is something that eludes even the most brilliant, mature scholars." Her ability to tackle complex issues, while also seeing the subtleties within them, distinguished her from even other highly intelligent younger scholars, who can tend to categorize matters too cleanly and naively. In reviewing the narrative comments from her professors—narrative comments are a required and distinguishing feature at Bard campuses—time and again, even as an undergraduate, one can readily see that Loren set the standards in the classes she took.

Loren continued to achieve new positions, at a young age, when she was elected to the Board of Overseers of Bard College at Simon's Rock in 2006, at age 23, following her graduation from the Georgetown University Law Center. As a member of the Board, in addition to her important insights on legal matters, Loren has contributed to Board discussions on many issues that have confronted Simon's Rock in her 17 years on the Board. Though at the time of election much younger than other Board members, Loren is now the senior member of a vocal group of Board members who graduated from the college with distinction in the early 2000s and have risen in their careers in various fields. Despite her busy schedule as a judge, Loren is conscientious in her Board attendance and participation. Her commitment to Simon's Rock, and to the motivated young people who attend, is deep, and comes as no surprise to anyone who knew her as a student two decades ago.

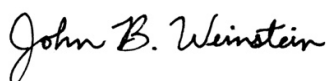
Just as she has set the standard so many times in previous roles, Loren would be exemplary as a federal judge in the U.S. District Court. She would be a tremendous asset to the judicial branch; of this, we have no doubts. Your consideration of Loren's candidacy is deeply appreciated by us, and she will, we know, continue to make her alma mater proud.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,



Leon Botstein  
President  
Bard College



John B. Weinstein  
Provost and Vice President  
Bard College at Simon's Rock