

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham,  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
211 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Sanket J. Bulsara, nominee for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We are former partners and colleagues of United States District Judge nominee Magistrate Judge Sanket J. Bulsara. We span a range of professional and legal experience and personal backgrounds, but we are uniform in our belief that Judge Bulsara is ideally suited to serve as a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of New York. Each of us supports his candidacy wholeheartedly and without reservation.

As both of you and the Judiciary Committee more broadly know, district judges in the Eastern District of New York have unusually heavy workloads, confront complex factual and legal issues, and adjudicate cases brought by one of the most diverse populations in the country. Judge Bulsara's professional and personal qualities are perfectly tailored to those required for the position he seeks. He is brilliant, careful, and meticulous. He is thoughtful, compassionate, empathetic, and deeply dedicated to the rule of law. He has a deep understanding of procedure rooted in personal experience, both as a lawyer in private practice and for these past seven years as a United States Magistrate Judge. In addition to being a probing and careful thinker, Judge Bulsara is a precise, thoughtful, and artful writer. And Judge Bulsara is committed to public service and fair process.

Judge Bulsara's commitment to public service is manifest in his activities as a lawyer and person. He has always taken to heart the importance of giving back to his community, whether at his workplace, his neighborhood, or his country. His service-oriented mindset is reflected in his mentorship of many of the signatories to this letter, as well as his: long tenure on the board of Sunnyside Community Services, volunteering as a coach and mentor for school-age student debate teams, commitment to *pro bono* work as a law firm partner, work as Acting General Counsel of the Securities Exchange Commission, and his recent service as a United States Magistrate Judge. He is extraordinarily well qualified for a District Court Judgeship.

As former colleagues of Judge Bulsara at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP ("WilmerHale"), we can attest to his exceptional skill as a lawyer. At WilmerHale, Judge Bulsara took 14 cases to trial or merits-stage arbitration and handled matters at every stage of civil litigation through appeal. His matters covered subjects ranging from antitrust to contract disputes to white collar defense. In every case, Judge Bulsara quickly made himself an expert on the relevant

substantive area of law and adopted the same careful, analytical approach to the issues. He stood out for his precision in both oral and written words and his compelling presence in the courtroom.

Because of his legal acumen, good humor, and quick wit, Judge Bulsara's colleagues frequently sought him out to help them think through the thorniest legal issues. In an office full of smart lawyers with few minutes to spare, it is a testament to Judge Bulsara that his colleagues believed that he would be the one with the right answer, the intellectual curiosity to engage on the question, and the generosity to spend his time on an issue for which he was not responsible. He came through for us time and time again.

Judge Bulsara is greatly respected and admired at WilmerHale, not least for his meticulous preparation and attention to detail. He never showed up to a meeting or a court appearance without having reviewed every document to which he might refer, tabbed in the right place, and marked up for every contingency. Several of the undersigned have had the opportunity as junior lawyers to assist in his planning and preparation for every possible question or surprise and have built our own practices on his model. Many others of us turned to Judge Bulsara as our junior colleague in recognition of his readiness to represent our clients exceptionally.

We also know Judge Bulsara to be a fundamentally decent and honorable person who is committed to fair process and to ensuring access to our legal system. While at WilmerHale, he gave innumerable hours to *pro bono* representations in matters ranging from impact litigations to representing individuals in asylum hearings. Judge Bulsara showed incredible dedication in leading two cases brought under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, on which he worked with several of the undersigned. In both instances, one after trial and appeal and the other after a preliminary injunction and settlement, Judge Bulsara successfully represented indigent victims of domestic violence seeking to live with and raise their children. As a result of this *pro bono* work during his law firm tenure, Judge Bulsara was recognized by Sanctuary for Families, a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding victims of domestic violence, with its Above and Beyond Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Advocacy in both 2013 and 2014. Additionally, he was a supervising partner of first resort for our associates who prepared for their first oral arguments in both *pro bono* and other contexts. His leadership not only changed the lives of his clients, but also left a lasting impression on the lawyers with whom he worked regarding the importance of *pro bono* service and the humanity and fulfillment it adds to one's legal practice and to our profession.

One additional qualification deserves mention: Judge Bulsara knows and understands the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure better than anyone with whom we have ever had the pleasure of working. In a firm full of lawyers who pride themselves on the intricacies of the law and procedure, Judge Bulsara stood out for his deep knowledge of everything from the broadest principles and most obscure caselaw to the details of the Rules themselves, even those that challenge long-time practitioners and judges. To amuse and also educate his former colleagues, Judge Bulsara created a civil procedure question of the month, in which he challenged us to apply the Rules to knotty legal issues. Judge Bulsara rewarded the winners, but for him the reward was the process itself, through which he got to immerse himself in the Rules and to engage with his colleagues.

In his current role as Magistrate Judge, we have come to understand that, among his colleagues, Judge Bulsara is known to volunteer for additional cases and take on administrative duties. He serves on the EDNY and SDNY Joint Local Rules committee and EDNY's CJA

committee. Judge Bulsara also takes it upon himself to assist new magistrate judges adjust into the role, just as he did for new partners and associates previously. He is highly regarded for his incredible intellect, an unmatched work ethic, and belief that every case, no matter its subject or size, is equally important. He is meticulous in his analysis, thorough in his reasoning, and clear and precise in his written decisions. Adhering to his longstanding professional work habits, when weighing each decision, Judge Bulsara pores over the full record, every brief, every exhibit, and every relevant case. Judge Bulsara endeavors to reach an outcome that is correct on the facts and law, but also done in a way that promotes confidence in the judicial process and the important role of our federal courts. Judge Bulsara also has a reputation for consistently treating everyone who appears before him with respect and dignity. Early in his tenure as a magistrate, Judge Bulsara was honored by the South Asian American Bar Association as the first South-Asian Judge to serve within the Second Circuit. In recognition of his competence and dedication as a Magistrate Judge, the Chief Justice appointed Judge Bulsara to serve on the Judicial Committee for Administration of the Magistrate System. For all of these reasons, he is a valued member of the EDNY community and a mentor to his chambers family.

As his career in the private sector, public service, and extremely successful tenure as a Magistrate Judge make plain, Judge Bulsara's intellect, preparation and wisdom will make him an excellent District Judge. His empathy, demeanor, and dedication to public service will continue to engender the respect of litigants. His generosity of spirit and time will make him beloved by his colleagues and clerks. Indeed, we know that many former clerks credit Judge Bulsara for dramatically enhancing their professional skills and readiness to serve clients.

For all of these reasons, we submit that he would be a superb addition to the Eastern District of New York bench. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional assistance in recommending him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howard M. Shapiro	Meredith Cross	Brent Gurney
Robert M. Finkel	Michelle Diamond	Daniel Halston
Christopher Davies	James Dowd	Jay Holtmeier
Debo P. Adegbile	Andrew S. Dulberg	Brian A. Johnson
Anjan Sahni	Kelly P. Dunbar	Boyd Johnson
Phil Anker	Ilya Feldsherov	Fiona Kaye
Stephanie Avakian	Robert M. Finkel	Tamar Kaplan-Marans
Christopher Babbitt	Ross Firszenbaum	Omar Khan
Hanna Baek	Mark Flanagan	Brad Konstandt
David Bassett	Lauren Fletcher	Gregory Lantier
Bruce Berman	Andrew Goldman	Victoria Lee
Alyssa Budihas	Jamie Gorelick	William Lee
Michael Bongiorno	Michael Gottesman	Michael Leotta
Jeannette Boot	Joel Green	Noah Levine
David Bowker	David Gringer	Bruce Loveland
John Butts	Lori Martin	Amanda Major
Adriel Cepeda-Derieux	Robert J. Gunther, Jr.	David Marcus

March 5, 2024

Page 4

Elizabeth Mitchell  
Peter Neiman  
Bruce Newman  
Edward O'Callaghan  
Jonathan Paikin  
Charles Platt  
Kimberly Parker  
Jonathan Pressman  
Kevin S. Prussia  
Thomas Saunders  
Alan Schoenfeld  
Susan Schroeder  
Daniel Schubert

George Shuster  
Erin Sloane  
Tiffany Smith  
Thomas Strickland  
Louis W. Tompros  
Cynthia Vreeland  
Seth Waxman  
Daniel Volchok  
Dino Wu