

March 22, 2024

**Via Facsimile**

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I write on behalf of the Garden State Bar Association ("GSBA") in connection with the nomination for Mr. Adeel Mangi to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, a seat previously held by the Hon. Joseph Greenaway, a bastion of the New Jersey legal community.

The GSBA is New Jersey's oldest and largest professional organization representing the interests of African-American judges, lawyers, law students, and legal professionals. Throughout our history, the GSBA has served as an advocate for African-Americans and other historically disenfranchised groups in the important work of advancing equity and fairness in the legal profession and beyond. As such, the GSBA is deeply concerned with baseless and inappropriate attacks against Mr. Mangi based upon his Muslim faith.

Mr. Mangi is an accomplished New Jersey lawyer. Like Judge Greenaway, he was educated at Harvard Law School and went on to have a successful legal practice. Mr. Mangi has been a commercial litigator for almost 24 years. His professional accolades are well-documented, and the American Bar Association has rated him as "well qualified."

Despite this record, rather than an assessment of legal matters or his qualifications, the discourse surrounding Mr. Mangi has been littered with groundless accusations with no support in evidence or fact.

The proper functioning of the judicial system requires the thorough and fair vetting of judicial candidates. Baseless attacks due to a candidate's religion or other protected characteristic should not be tolerated and may have the effect of chilling meaningful participation from highly credentialed candidates. Those who are willing to set aside often categorically successful careers in order to participate as candidates in the judicial confirmation process should be treated with dignity and respect.

The Garden State Bar Association joins in the chorus of organizations advocating for a fair and impartial confirmation process, uncontaminated by bias or prejudice, for Mr. Adeel Mangi and each and every nominee.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Lewis, V  
President, GSBA 2023-2024