

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. 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

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Amir Ali

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Senate Judiciary Committee members.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) is a nonprofit organization composed of current and former police officers, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, and other law enforcement officers working to make law enforcement more effective and just. We do so by focusing resources on the greatest threats to public safety, promoting alternatives to arrest and incarceration, addressing the root causes of crime, and by working to improve the relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

In this work, we've had multiple collaborations with the MacArthur Justice Center and with the center's director, Amir Ali, who is currently a nominee for a judgeship on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Amir is eminently qualified for this position, and LEAP is honored to add our organization's name to the long list of endorsements he currently carries.

We are at a pivotal moment in the trajectory of our criminal justice system. In the face of an uncertain future, it is more critical than ever that the leaders of this system, including in the judiciary, are dedicated to bringing people together to advance just solutions. Through Amir's work in this field, he has shown an ability to build diverse coalitions of community groups, law enforcement experts, and social justice organizations, all united by a shared desire to improve the system.

Over the course of LEAP's interactions with Amir, he has demonstrated a consistent interest in understanding public safety from the perspective of law enforcement. Amir has used these insights to help bridge the gap between impacted communities and the police officers, prosecutors, and judges whose decisions alter countless lives each day. The involved parties may not always agree on the best path toward progress, but it is clear that Amir understands the value of learning from one another and finding areas where everyone can work together to make all communities safer. This is a vital

quality for a judge, whose core role is to engage with people of different backgrounds and guide them toward just outcomes.

In 2021, LEAP supported Amir as he argued—and later won—the landmark *Thompson v. Clark* case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Our organization was inspired by Amir’s poise and clarity as he represented a victim of police misconduct seeking to hold a corrupt officer accountable. LEAP submitted an amicus curiae brief on Amir and his client’s behalf, explaining the importance of accountability for fostering public confidence in law enforcement and, ultimately, promoting public safety.

A group of 70 current and former prosecutors also filed briefs in support of Amir, as did a cross-ideological coalition of organizations ranging from the ACLU and NAACP Legal Defense Fund to the Cato Institute and Alliance Defending Freedom. Amir’s work, in *Thompson v. Clark* and beyond, has exemplified his passion for pursuing common goals of accountability, safety, and justice. This trait has helped him attract bipartisan support from congressional lawmakers in other high-profile legal cases.

Amir’s nomination also marks an opportunity to break long-standing barriers in the judiciary. He is the first Muslim nominated to the federal bench in the District, and his elevation to the position would make him the first-ever Arab American Muslim federal judge. LEAP has worked tirelessly to promote diversity in all ranks of law enforcement, recognizing the value of representation in building community trust. Amir’s remarkable accomplishments and qualifications speak for themselves, and few candidates would be more rightly deserving of a place in our nation’s history.

Sincerely,

*Diane M Goldstein*

Diane Goldstein  
Executive Director  
Law Enforcement Action Partnership