

December 11, 2023

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

***Re: The Nomination of Mr. Adeel Mangi United States Court of Appeals for
the Third Circuit***

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”), I write to express LDF’s enthusiastic support for the nomination of Adeel Mangi to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Founded in 1940 by Thurgood Marshall, LDF is the country’s first and foremost civil rights law organization. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans.

LDF has examined and reviewed the record of judicial nominees for decades. Our examination of the record of judicial nominees is focused on an assessment of the capacity of judicial nominees to undertake their work with fairness and impartiality, and with respect for the rights of those who are often most marginalized in our society. The role of a federal judge is among the most central to maintaining the rule of law and the preservation of our constitutional democracy. Article III judges enjoy lifetime tenure and are subject to the rigorous process of Senate confirmation to ensure their independence and integrity, and to equip them to hold a position of the highest public trust. It is important, therefore, that individuals who serve as judges have a demonstrated commitment to fairness and to upholding the rule of law.

Mr. Mangi’s record demonstrates a deep and abiding commitment to the preservation of the rule of law throughout his 23-year career with the law firm of Patterson Belknap Webb and Tyler LLP, which he joined in 2000 and where he became the youngest associate ever to be made a partner at the firm. He has combined his work in complex commercial litigation with an impressive record of pro bono work on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens and communities. The excellent record Mr. Mangi has amassed over the course of his professional career, and his dedication to protecting the civil rights of individuals and organizations in need of pro bono representation, confirm beyond doubt

that he is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Third Circuit.

Mr. Mangi, a native of Pakistan, received his B.A. at the University of Oxford (Pembroke College) in 1998, and became a Barrister at Law in 1999 as a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, during which time his two-person team won the National Bar Providers Moot Court Competition. He received his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 2000, where he was a Kennedy Memorial Scholar.

Mr. Mangi's substantial pro bono practice during his career with Patterson Belknap has spanned multiple issue areas. In one significant case, he represented the family of Karl Taylor, an incarcerated man who was killed by corrections officers while imprisoned at the Sullivan Correctional Facility in Fallsburg, New York, on a block in a special unit for those with mental illness. After a lengthy trial, at which the Mr. Mangi presented substantial testimony showing that Mr. Taylor had died as a result of being choked to death, not from a heart attack as state officials had maintained, the defendants agreed to an out-of-court settlement with Mr. Taylor's family which constituted the largest settlement in New York state history for the death of an incarcerated person.¹ The settlement also included an agreement by officials to install video cameras and microphones throughout the correctional facility as preventive measures.

Mr. Mangi has also represented religious groups and institutions in cases involving claims of religious discrimination in seeking zoning consideration for building mosques in two New Jersey communities. In one case, Mr. Mangi represented the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, after local authorities altered zoning rules to prevent the society from building a mosque in the community. Ugly incidents of anti-Muslim bias had characterized years of public hearings and community opposition to the mosque, including claims that animal sacrifice would be practiced at the mosque and vandalism of the Islamic Society's mailbox to change the letters "ISBR" to say "ISIS." An "uncommonly wide range of religious groups" came to the Society's support in its lawsuit—including conservative groups such as the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.² The litigation concluded with a \$3.25 million settlement allowing the mosque to be built. Mr. Mangi also successfully settled a

¹ Tom Robbins, [Karl Taylor Died in a New York Prison. Now the State Has Agreed to Pay Millions](#), The Marshall Project, February 28, 2020.

² Emma Green, [A New Jersey Mosque Wins in a Religious-Discrimination Lawsuit—Over Parking Lots](#), The Atlantic, May 30, 2017).

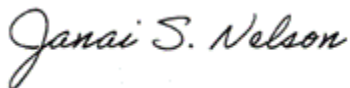
claim of religious discrimination in Bayonne, New Jersey, which ultimately allowed a disputed mosque to be built.³

Alongside his legal practice, Mr. Mangi has served his community in other ways. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Alliance of Families for Justice, which advocates on behalf of incarcerated individuals and their families. He also served multiple terms as an ally Board Member for the National LGBT Bar Association. In addition, he has devoted substantial time to the Ali Hasan Mangi Memorial Trust, a family trust working to improve conditions in a Pakistan village, including building new schools, a sanitation network, clean water access and vocational training for women.⁴

Mr. Mangi's confirmation to the Third Circuit would also further the goal of a federal judiciary that reflects the great diversity and breadth of experience of the legal profession. He will be a "first" – the first Muslim to ever sit on a U.S. appellate court.⁵ Further, if confirmed, he would become only the third Muslim judge to ever be confirmed to a lifetime appointment on any of our federal courts.

Mr. Mangi's career models an unwavering commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law. LDF is confident that he will bring to the Third Circuit the same deep commitment to these values that he has displayed throughout his distinguished career. We urge the Committee to swiftly approve Mr. Mangi's nomination.

Sincerely,



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³ Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LL.P., [Firm Secures Settlement on Behalf of Bayonne Muslims](#), February 1, 2018.

⁴ 2014 Rising Stars, New York Law Journal, June 16, 2014, <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcgclclefindmkaj/https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2015/07/NYLJ-2014-Rising-Stars.pdf>

⁵ Azi Paybarah, *Biden nominee would be first Muslim on federal appellate court in U.S. history*, The Washington Post, November 15, 2023.

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