

THE LGBTQ+ BAR

December 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin,

In our roles as Presidents of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and Foundation (“LGBTQ+ Bar”), we are pleased to express the LGBTQ+ Bar’s strong support of Adeel Mangi’s nomination to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The LGBTQ+ Bar, an official affiliate of the American Bar Association, is the largest professional association for LGBTQ+ attorneys, judges, law students, and legal professionals in the United States. Our mission is to promote justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBTQ+ community in all its diversity. We are proud to represent tens of thousands of LGBTQ+ attorneys throughout the United States, and we enthusiastically support the nomination of Mr. Mangi, a former board member of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and a longtime ally of our community.

Mr. Mangi is an experienced litigator with an extensive career spanning both business litigation and pro bono work. Currently, he serves as Partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, where he has worked for twenty-three years on cases ranging from commercial contracts, false advertising, and consumer protection to civil rights, religious freedom, and protections for incarcerated individuals. Among his many cases and achievements, it is particularly notable that Mr. Mangi was the Counsel of Record for an amicus brief filed in *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020) by numerous Muslim legal organizations. The brief argues that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and makes powerful connections between religious discrimination and LGBTQ+ discrimination in the workplace, arguing that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects every American’s right to a safe workplace regardless of their background.

Over the course of Mr. Mangi’s service as a board member of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, he diligently worked to support the LGBTQ+ legal community, including spearheading efforts to encourage non-LGBTQ+ attorneys and legal professionals to better support their LGBTQ+ peers. For example, he was instrumental in the creation of the LGBTQ+ Bar’s Ally Initiative, which aims to connect and empower legal professionals who do not identify as LGBTQ+, but want their LGBTQ+ peers to have equal opportunities and safety in the workplace. Additionally, while serving on our board, Mr. Mangi spoke at our Annual Lavender Law® Conference and Career Fair, participated in an allyship call-in, and both created and strengthened bridges between the LGBTQ+ Bar and multiple Muslim legal

organizations, including the Muslim Bar Association of New York and Muslim Advocates. Mr. Mangi's community building both highlighted the LGBTQ+ Muslim legal community, and strengthened participating organizations' shared commitment to justice in and through the legal profession.

In addition to his extensive experience, knowledge, and leadership skills, Mr. Mangi also exhibits the best qualities of an ideal judicial temperament. Mr. Mangi's vast pro bono portfolio, his consistent advocacy for LGBTQ+ legal professionals, and the relationships he built between our organization and other affinity bars and advocacy groups clearly demonstrate deep compassion, open-mindedness, and a commitment to equal justice for all. Further, he was a pleasure to serve with and exhibited patience, courtesy, and decisiveness in all our professional interactions. Over the years that Mr. Mangi served on our Association's board, LGBTQ+ Bar leadership witnessed these qualities consistently and repeatedly.

Finally, if confirmed, Mr. Mangi will make history as the first Muslim American to serve on any federal appellate bench in American history. The LGBTQ+ Bar strongly believes that diverse perspectives make the bench stronger and lead to better judgments. We also know that diversity on the bench strengthens public confidence in our legal system by allowing all Americans to see themselves and their experiences reflected in the administration of justice. For these reasons, the LGBTQ+ Bar routinely supports openly LGBTQ+ legal professionals seeking judicial positions. We are proud to now extend our support to Mr. Mangi, a steadfast ally to our community, a dedicated jurist, and a historic nominee who will bring much needed representation to millions of Muslim Americans.

For these reasons, and many others, it is our pleasure to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Adeel Mangi to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Given his wealth of experience, even temperament, and clear dedication to justice, we know he will be both an outstanding and an historic addition to the federal bench. If you have any questions or if the LGBTQ+ Bar can provide additional information, please contact the LGBTQ+ Bar's Policy Counsel, Mari Nemeck, at mari@lgbtqbar.org.

Sincerely,



Bendita Cynthia Malakia
President, National LGBTQ+ Bar Association



Travis Torrence
President, National LGBTQ+ Bar Foundation