



**MUSLIM AMERICAN JUDICIAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAJAC)**



December 9, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Adeel Abdullah Mangi to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We write, on behalf of the organizations and groups listed below, to urge the United States Senate to confirm Adeel A. Mangi's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ("Third Circuit"). Mr. Mangi is a tireless advocate for justice and would bring a much-needed perspective to the federal judiciary. His commitment to impartiality and equality is evident in all aspects of his career and work.

Mr. Mangi is a distinguished litigator who has dedicated a significant portion of his career to ensuring that marginalized communities are treated fairly. Mr. Mangi is a Partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP,<sup>1</sup> where he has practiced complex commercial litigation for 20 years. His credentials are impeccable. Mr. Mangi graduated from Harvard Law School with an LL.M. Before that Mr. Mangi qualified as a British Barrister at Law as a Member of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn. He also holds a First Class Degree in Law from the University of Oxford (Pembroke College). Mr. Mangi's record of consistent high-profile civil rights litigation while practicing sophisticated commercial litigation at a preeminent law firm is respected and recognized by his peers and clients.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adeel A. Mangi, Partner, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, Biography, <https://www.pbwt.com/adeel-a-mangi>.

<sup>2</sup> *Benchmark Litigation* named Mr. Mangi to its 2024 and 2023 lists of the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers" in the United States, which consists of "partners who have been venerated by peers and clients as being the best in breed at the nuanced practice of trial law . . . based on an intensive peer-and-client review." *Benchmark Litigation* also named Mr. Mangi as a 2024 and 2023 Litigation Star and has noted that peers describe Mr. Mangi as "meticulous and relentless," and "an unflappable whiz at everything he does." *Benchmark* awarded its "Impact Case of the Year" recognition for 2023 to Mr. Mangi and his team. In 2023, Mr. Mangi was also named to *The National Law Journal's* General Litigation Trailblazers list. In 2022, he was featured in *The American Lawyer's* 'Litigators of the Week' section in connection with a jury trial verdict. He has also been highlighted repeatedly, including in 2022, as a "Client Service All-Star" by The BTI Consulting Group. This

Mr. Mangi is a highly credentialed lawyer, but what makes him best suited for the judiciary is his immense empathy and compassion. In addition to his complex commercial litigation practice, Mr. Mangi has devoted considerable time and effort to protecting the fundamental rights of the LGBTQ+ community, Muslim Americans, and other historically disenfranchised communities.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Mangi represented the family of a Black mentally-ill inmate who was allegedly killed by prison guards at a New York state correctional facility. After more than four years of litigation and a two-week jury trial in the Southern District of New York in February 2020, the case settled for a substantial monetary sum for the family—almost three times the previous highest settlement in New York history—and the settlement also required New York State to install a comprehensive network of video cameras and microphones throughout the correctional facility. This was an unprecedented settlement condition, and it demonstrates Mr. Mangi’s understanding of the impact litigation and the courts can have on advancing our society and ensuring protection for all.

We also note Mr. Mangi’s extraordinary contributions to protecting the civil rights of religious communities, specifically the Muslim American community. For example, Mr. Mangi was lead counsel in two landmark cases in the District of New Jersey brought by Muslim American groups challenging local municipalities’ denial of planning or zoning permission to build mosques in an atmosphere of pervasive anti-Muslim bigotry. These two cases—in Bernards Township and Bayonne—were heavily covered in the national press. The plaintiffs ultimately prevailed in both cases through favorable settlements. The resulting precedent has benefited several other faith-communities across the United States and succeeded in reversing a disturbing trend of discrimination against Muslim houses of worship in New Jersey. Mr. Mangi also filed amicus briefs with the Second, Fifth, Seventh and Ninth Circuits, on behalf of cross-faith coalitions of religious entities, arguing that plaintiffs subject to religious discrimination under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act should be permitted monetary recovery against state officials.

Mr. Mangi also spearheaded an extensive series of amicus briefs on a multitude of religious and civil rights issues. For example, on behalf of a coalition of Muslim American organizations, Mr. Mangi authored an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, arguing that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ+ individuals from employment discrimination. (A majority of the Court went on to agree

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award recognizes attorneys who “stand above all the others in delivering the absolute best in client service.” Earlier, Mr. Mangi was named a “Future Star” for the years 2017-2022 by *Benchmark Litigation*. From 2016-2018 Mr. Mangi was also named to *Benchmark’s* “40 & Under Hot List.” The list recognizes “the achievements of the nation’s most accomplished legal partners” ages 40 and under. Mr. Mangi was previously named a “2014 Rising Star” by the *New York Law Journal*, which recognizes the most promising lawyers under the age of 40 who have demonstrated that they are top contributors to the practice of law and their communities; a “Rising Star” by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association’s *Diversity & the Bar* magazine, which selected 12 up-and-coming attorneys for 2014; and as one of the National Asian and Pacific American Bar Association’s “Best Lawyers Under 40” for 2014. Mr. Mangi is also a 2013 graduate of the Microsoft Litigation Group’s highly prestigious Trial Advocacy Academy.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Mangi serves on the Advisory Board of the Alliance of Families for Justice, which advocates on behalf of incarcerated individuals and their families, and the Center for Security, Race, and Rights. Mr. Mangi previously served on a variety of additional boards, including the boards of directors of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, the Legal Aid Society of New York, the National LGBT Bar Association, and Muslims for Progressive Values.

with that reading of the statute.) Mr. Mangi also filed amicus briefs before the Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second and Ninth Circuits, and the Eastern District of New York and Texas on behalf of more than 100 cross-faith religious organizations opposing attempts to repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program. He coalesced a group of 75 multi-faith organizations of religious entities that opposed the federal government's attempt to divert allocated funds to build a border wall through amicus briefs before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Northern District of California, and the Western District of Texas. And Mr. Mangi was involved in amicus submissions challenging the "Muslim Ban" before the Supreme Court and on remand before the Fourth Circuit. Most recently, Mr. Mangi has filed a brief with the Second Circuit on behalf of a multi-faith coalition of religious entities arguing for a restrictive construction of qualified immunity.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Mangi is known for his commitment to public service, mentorship, and inspiring the next generation of lawyers. For example, Mr. Mangi used the attorney fees recovered in some of his pro bono matters to create a scholarship fund for Muslim-American law students. Further, many members of our organizations are proud to call Mr. Mangi a mentor and friend. Additionally, when Mr. Mangi served on the board of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, he led the organization to endorse draft marriage equality legislation. MuBANY was the only religiously-affiliated bar association to do so at the time.

The common thread through all of Mr. Mangi's accomplishments is his commitment to justice and fairness, which is only amplified by his strategic instincts, empathetic approach, and even temperament.

The federal judiciary needs brilliant, contemplative, and highly-credentialed candidates like Mr. Mangi. We note, however, that nominating an individual who identifies as Muslim to the Third Circuit is also critical to ensuring our judicial system is truly representative of America. While there have been strides that we celebrate in this space, representation of Muslim Americans in the judiciary is still far below where it needs to be and non-existent at the Circuit level. This is despite the fact that Muslims have been a part of the fabric of America since its founding. The Muslim American community is currently one of the most ethnically diverse faith communities in the United States—over 25% are Black, 14% are Arab, 23% are Asian, and 8% are Latinx, among many other ethnicities.<sup>4</sup> Yet, notwithstanding this history, diversity, and the fact that there are currently at least 3.45 million Americans that identify as Muslim, the community is largely absent from the federal judiciary, and completely absent at the Circuit level.

In sum, Mr. Mangi's judgment – which has guided him through an incredible legal career representing clients from *all parts* of our country – makes him an excellent candidate to be the first federal Circuit Judge who identifies as Muslim. We urge the United States Senate to confirm Adeel A. Mangi's nomination to the Third Circuit. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>4</sup> Data is from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU). Note, with respect to the percentage of Muslim Americans who are "Asian," ISPU included Chinese and Japanese in that category as well. See ISPU, "Who Are American Muslims?", available at <https://www.ispu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Who-Are-American-Muslims.pdf>.

Sincerely,

**Muslim American Judicial Advisory Council (MAJAC)<sup>5</sup>**

**Capital Area Muslim Bar Association (CAMBA)**

**Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY)**

**America Indivisible**

**New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association (NJMLA)**

cc: Senator Cory Booker

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<sup>5</sup> The Muslim Judicial Advisory Council was created in 2021 by the Muslim Bar Association of New York (“MuBANY”), the Capitol Area Muslim Bar Association (“CAMBA”), and America Indivisible. The Advisory Council consists of a small group of individuals with experience in legal practice and judicial nomination processes, and its ultimate goal is to increase Muslim-American representation in the judiciary. The Advisory Council serves as a pipeline development tool for state and federal judiciaries, a mentorship hub for potential and current judicial candidates, and a vehicle through which to amplify the profiles of candidates who are being considered for appointment to judicial openings.