

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in support of Amir Ali, nominee for United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

We, the undersigned current and former prosecutors and Department of Justice officials, write to the Senate Judiciary Committee in strong support of President Joe Biden's nomination of Amir Ali to serve as a Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

The undersigned state and federal prosecutors and Department of Justice officials hold diverse political ideologies and affiliations. Yet, what we do share is an unwavering respect and admiration for Amir Ali.

Mr. Ali is a foremost legal thinker, an accomplished litigator, and a distinguished defender of the Constitution's principles. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, Mr. Ali clerked for the Honorable Raymond C. Fisher of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Ali then practiced at Jenner & Block LLP, where he litigated significant commercial and regulatory cases and held an extensive pro bono practice. Throughout his legal career, Mr. Ali has argued both criminal and civil cases at all levels of the federal judiciary, including multiple cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Moreover, he has served as lead counsel in over 40 appellate cases and 20 trial court cases in state and federal courts, including four cases in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. His litigation experience is not limited to any one facet of the law, spanning from commercial issues and regulatory law to intellectual property and civil liberties.

Mr. Ali has also been called to testify before Congress as an expert on federal procedure and habeas law, and he is often turned to as co-counsel and a resource by private attorneys and government attorneys across the country. An accomplished teacher and mentor, Mr. Ali serves as Co-Director of Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Appellate Clinic and as an Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Throughout his career, Mr. Ali has been recognized for his ability to build bridges, create consensus, and find common ground - the importance of which cannot be overstated. As President and Executive Director of the MacArthur Justice Center, Mr. Ali regularly brings together coalitions of leaders and organizations across the political spectrum under shared, common goals and a pursuit of the rule of law. As just one example, bipartisan groups of former

prosecutors and Department of Justice officials, including several of the undersigned, have filed amicus briefs in support of Mr. Ali's clients on multiple criminal justice issues.

Mr. Ali demonstrates a deep commitment to public service and protecting the rights of all people, regardless of race, religion, background, belief, or creed. He has received national recognition for his exceptional service and dedication to ensuring fairness for all, including the American Bar Association's Exceptional Service Award on behalf of intellectually disabled people, Bloomberg Law's Inaugural Pro Bono Innovators Award, and the Albert E. Jenner Pro Bono Award for providing exceptional legal services to the needy.

Mr. Ali possesses the judgment, temperament, compassion, and integrity required to be a superb District Court judge. He is brilliant, kind, open-minded, and gracious - qualities that the finest federal judges hold.

Mr. Ali is unequivocally qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, a community to which he is deeply committed. Mr. Ali will be an outstanding addition to the bench.

We are proud to support Amir Ali's nomination, and we urge the Senate to swiftly confirm him to the D.C. District Court.

Please note: the undersigned individuals have signed on to this letter in their personal capacities and not in any official capacity.

Sincerely,

Felicia C. Adams, United States Attorney, Northern District of Mississippi (2011-2017)

Kelsi Brown Corkran, Attorney, Civil Appellate Staff, Department of Justice (2006-2012)

Gabriel Davis, Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice (2015-2018)

Greg Davis, United States Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi (2012-2017)

Ian Heath Gershengorn, Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice (2016-2017); Principal Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice (2013-2016); Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Department of Justice (2009-2013)

Irv Gornstein, Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice (1994-2007)

Cliff Johnson, Assistant United States Attorney (Health Care Fraud Coordinator), Southern District of Mississippi (1996-2001)

Neal K. Katyal, Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice(2010-2011); Principal Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice (2009-2011); National Security Adviser, Department of Justice (1998-1999)

Miriam Aroni Krinsky, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief, Criminal Appeals Section and General Crimes Section, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (1992 to 2002); Chair, Solicitor General's Advisory Group on Appellate Issues (2000-2002).

Ronald C. Machen, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia (2010-2015)

Mary B. McCord, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security (2016-2017); Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security (2014-2017); Assistant United States Attorney (1994-2001, 2002-2014)

William C. Pericak, Director, Deepwater Horizon Task Force (2013-2014), Assistant Chief, Criminal Fraud Section (2011-2013), Deputy Criminal Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office (2002-2011), Assistant U.S. Attorney (1989-2002)

Brad Pigott, United States Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi (1994-2001)

Eli Savit, Prosecuting Attorney, Washtenaw County (MI)

Cliff Sloan, Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice (1989-1991)

Donald B Verrilli, Jr, Solicitor General, Department of Justice (2011-2016)