

February 7, 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

Re: Letter in support of Amir Ali's Nomination to Serve on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

We are Rabbis and Jewish leaders joined together in our strong support of Mr. Amir Ali's nomination to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Jewish teachings and texts assert the importance of treating every human being equally, without exception, as we are all created in the image of God. The Torah teaches the commandment of actively working to treat others equally, fairly, and ethically.

Mr. Amir Ali has dedicated his career to that call.

Mr. Ali is a public servant who has fought to protect the rights and ensure the fair treatment of all people, regardless of race, religion, background, belief, or creed, receiving numerous awards for his dedication to justice. He has not just served those in his community, but has, throughout his career, advocated on behalf of people from all walks of life, including some of our most under-resourced and marginalized.

Under the leadership of Mr. Ali, the MacArthur Justice Center has litigated multiple cases to protect the rights of Jewish people and the religious liberties of all. To provide one example, of the many compelling options to choose from, the MacArthur Justice Center represented and successfully advocated on behalf of Dewey Barnett II, who was put in solitary confinement and denied access to his Bible. The Justice Center's work on this matter was supported by dozens of religious organizations, including the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Campus Ministry of Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York at Hostos and Bronx Community College of City University of New York, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Men for Reform Judaism, Muslim Advocates, the Muslim Bar Association of New York, the National Association of Muslim Lawyers, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, the Union Theological Seminary, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Women of Reform Judaism.

Mr. Ali is a man of utmost character, integrity, empathy, compassion, kindness, and intellect. He is known and respected as an individual with a unique ability to build bridges between those

with different or even conflicting viewpoints. At a time of extreme division - whether due to political ideology, race, religion, sexual orientation, or nationality, Mr. Ali demonstrates the essential need to bring people together, as exhibited by his career and the partnerships he has formed throughout it.

Jews, Muslims, persons of every faith, and non-religious people can all look to Mr. Ali taking the bench as one more important step towards perfecting our great union, where children from every corner of America will have no limits to their dreams or their ability to serve the greater community from influential positions.

We are proud to support Mr. Amir Ali's nomination; the District of Columbia and the United States of America will be better off with him on the federal judiciary.

The undersigned individuals have signed on to this letter in their personal capacities, not in any official position.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz, Congregation Kol Ami

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter, Temple Beth David

Rabbi Serena Fujita, Union for Reform Judaism

Rabbi Michael Adam Latz, Chaplain

Rabbi Jessica K. Marshall

Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg

Rabbi Ariana Silverman, Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue

Sonya Weisburd, Director of Social Impact, Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center

Cantor Michael J. Zoosman, Chaplain