



June 5, 2023

2023 SABA-DC Board

Debodhonyaa Sengupta
President

Ravi Kambhampaty
President-Elect

Kirti Suri
Vice President of
Communications

Khatija Choudhry
Vice President of
Membership

Aseem Chipalkatti
Vice President of Gala

Amal Rafiq
Treasurer

Anupma Sahay
Secretary

Avni Amin
Director

Sohil Khurana
Director

Snehal Massey
Director

Jomy J. Methipara
Director

Devika Persaud
Director

Archith Ramkumar
Director

Manasi Raveendran
Director

Asha Bhatiani Scielzo
Director

Anand Shah
Director

Nandu Machiraju
Immediate Past President

Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Endorsement of Judge Loren AliKhan for Vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Senator Graham:

On behalf of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (“SABA-DC”), we write to express our unequivocal support for the confirmation of Judge Loren AliKhan, Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, to fill the current District Judge vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (“D.C. District Court”). Based on her extensive personal and professional accomplishments, SABA-DC strongly believes that Judge AliKhan is immensely qualified to join the D.C. District Court.

SABA-DC is a voluntary bar association dedicated to the needs, concerns, and interests of the South Asian legal community in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The organization reaches approximately 1,000 attorneys and jurists of South Asian origin in the D.C. metropolitan area, including Maryland and Virginia. SABA-DC’s key objectives are to advance the professional development of South Asian lawyers, increase awareness and dialogue regarding legal issues concerning the South Asian diaspora, and improve access to legal services for the South Asian community in the D.C. metropolitan area. In making our endorsements, we consider a candidate’s experience, past accomplishments, demonstrated interest in or commitment to the South Asian community, and broader efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession.



In the 16 months that she has served as Associate Judge for the D.C. Court of Appeals, Judge AliKhan has issued opinions on a range matters, including civil, criminal, administrative, and bar discipline cases. Reflecting her ability to rule based on consensus, all her opinions have been unanimous. Before joining the D.C. Court of Appeals she served as Solicitor General for the District of Columbia and, before that, as Deputy Solicitor General for Civil and Administrative Appeals. In those roles, Judge AliKhan handled 3,000 cases in the District’s local and federal trial and appellate courts on a wide range of issues, including administrative law, contract disputes, criminal law, employment issues, family law, the Home Rule Act, torts, tax, workers’ compensation, and zoning. These experiences with high profile and complex legal matters demonstrate how uniquely qualified Judge AliKhan is to join the D.C. District Court and preside over its unique, pressing docket. SABA-DC is joined in this request by our parent organization, the South Asian Bar Association of North America (“SABA North America”) and the undersigned chapters.

Before Judge AliKhan joined the Office of the Attorney General, she spent several years in private practice, where she focused on complex trial and appellate matters. She also supported several notable *pro bono* matters, including Supreme Court cases on behalf of indigent criminal defendants and *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of organizations supporting minority communities. Before her time in private practice, Judge AliKhan clerked for the Hon. Louis H. Pollak on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Hon. Thomas L. Ambro on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge AliKhan’s diverse set of experiences and her comprehensive skillset makes her a natural fit for the bench.

In addition to her impeccable professional qualifications, we note that Judge AliKhan’s appointment to this position would enhance the diversity of the D.C. District Court bench. Judge AliKhan is a first-generation South Asian American—the daughter of immigrants from Pakistan. As the first lawyer in her family, she is familiar with the trailblazing immigrant experience of so many litigants that appear before the D.C. District Court. In fact, SABA-DC recognized Judge AliKhan as its Public Sector Trailblazer in 2019 for her sustained excellence and accomplishments, which inspire our members and South Asian lawyers throughout the United States. If confirmed, Judge AliKhan will be the first South Asian woman to serve on the D.C. District Court, and we are confident that she will bring her unique perspective as a South Asian woman to the bench to contribute to the Court’s goal of increased access to justice.

Finally, we want to specially note Judge AliKhan’s service to the SABA-DC community. In December last year, Judge AliKhan presided over a ceremony inducting our new Board into office and delivered remarks for the event. She spoke eloquently about the value of service and diversity



and inclusion. She then stayed for well over an hour to meet with all the new Board members, their friends and families, and other members of the SABA-DC community who attended the ceremony. Given the importance of the evening, her genuine participation made the ceremony extra special for SABA-DC. But truly, it was just one of many examples where Judge AliKhan has unselfishly contributed her time to our community. She has spoken on numerous panels, given opening remarks for a clerkship conference that we co-host annually with other diverse bar organizations in the District of Columbia, formally and informally mentored young attorneys and contributed to our community in countless other ways. Authentic service is sustained, magnanimous, and often unheralded; Judge AliKhan's service to the SABA-DC community has been nothing short of exemplary.

Based on the information highlighted in this letter, combined with the extensive materials you have received regarding her qualifications, SABA-DC strongly and enthusiastically supports Judge AliKhan's confirmation to the D.C. District Court bench.

Sincerely,

Nandu Machiraju, Esq.
Co-Chair, Endorsements Committee

Kirti Suri, Esq.
Co-Chair, Endorsements Committee

cc: Dr. Deboadhonyaa Sengupta, Esq., President, SABA-DC
Ravi Kambhampaty, Esq., President-Elect, SABA-DC

Tara M. Raghavan, Esq., President, SABA North America
Charanjit Brahma, Esq., President-Elect, SABA North America

Nandita Ruchandani, Esq., President, SABA-Connecticut

Nitika Fiorella, Esq., President, SABA-Delaware

Nirav A. Desai, Esq., President, SABA-Florida

Gautam Reddy, Esq., President, SABA-Georgia

Sophia George, Esq., President, SABA-Houston

Rippi Karda, Esq., President, SABA-New Jersey

Fatima Khan, Esq., President, SABA-St. Louis