

February 12, 2022

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

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

Re: Nomination of Nusrat Jahan Choudhury to the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of New York
Nomination Number PN1682-117

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Grassley:

The undersigned, Grant F. Langley, was first an Assistant City Attorney from 1971 to 1984 and then the elected City Attorney for the city of Milwaukee from 1984 to April 2020. The undersigned, Jan A. Smokowicz, was an Assistant and then a Deputy City Attorney for the city of Milwaukee from 1991 to April 2020. We write of our professional experience with Attorney Choudhury in support of her nomination to the District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Attorney Choudhury was one of the principal lawyers for the plaintiffs in *Charles Collins, et al. v. City of Milwaukee, et al.*, a federal civil rights lawsuit brought by several individuals and assisted by the ACLU. The plaintiffs challenged the manner in which the Milwaukee Police Department stopped, frisked, and searched individuals. The plaintiffs asserted that these actions resulted in a pattern of unlawful conduct and sought class certification. Plaintiffs sought declaratory and injunctive relief along with the recovery of attorney's fees and costs. The suit was filed in February 2017.

Counsel for the parties engaged in a lengthy series of in-person and telephonic settlement and status conferences between October 2017 and July 2018. This ultimately resulted in a 50 page Settlement Agreement and Order prescribing certain actions and data disclosures by the Milwaukee Police Department and the city's Fire and Police Commission over a period of five years.

It was in the course of negotiating this complex, technical and lengthy settlement agreement that we spent many hours with Attorney Choudhury and her fellow plaintiffs' counsel from the ACLU. It became clear to us during the course of these many sessions that Ms. Choudhury not only was extremely knowledgeable about the pertinent civil rights law, but also had a mastery of the many technical details

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of the extensive settlement proposal and the statistical analyses pertinent to it. Just as significantly, she displayed an unfailingly even-temper and a reasonable and fair approach to resolving the many thorny issues that arose during the settlement efforts. Though strong in her advocacy for her clients, she was nonetheless receptive to reasonable and ultimately successful compromises required to reach the settlement.

Our interaction leads us to believe that Attorney Choudhury will bring considerable intellect, diligence, compassion, and reasonableness to the federal judiciary. It is for these reasons that we support her nomination.

Very truly yours,

sl Grant F. Langley
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