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January 30, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
dick@durbin.senate.gov

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

RE: Georgia Association of Black Women Attorney's Endorsement of Nancy Abudu, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys ("GABWA"), I write to convey GABWA's strongest support for the nomination of Nancy Abudu to join the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ms. Abudu is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the court and will bring with her both deep experience in litigation and a deep understanding of the Constitution and laws she will take an oath to uphold.

Our principal goal in endorsing judicial candidates is to ensure the appointment of qualified judges, and, consistent with that goal, to increase the number of African American judges on the bench who support and embody the mission of GABWA. We consider, in our recommendations, the candidate's background, level of experience, record of public service, and a demonstrated commitment to the equality and equity of all litigants. Ms. Abudu embodies all of these qualities and her professional experiences have uniquely prepared her for the role of judge. Ms. Abudu's early career included positions as an associate at a large, traditional law firm and as a staff attorney at the Eleventh Circuit, where she experienced first-hand the distinct roles of the judges for whom she worked and the advocates who appeared before them. In 2005, Ms. Abudu made a choice to devote her education and experience to advocating for the protection of constitutional rights guaranteed to all Americans. Her work, first with the ACLU and later with SPLC, focused on providing legal representation to those least able to represent themselves.

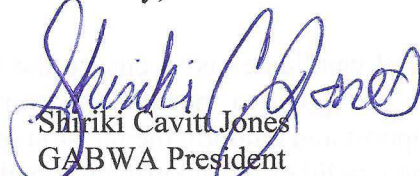
Ms. Abudu's intellect, legal acumen, sound judgment, passion for justice, and impeccable integrity – qualities she will bring to the Court – have lent themselves to a remarkable career. In addition to being a gifted litigator, Ms. Abudu has become a leading and respected voice on civil and human rights. She is a Harvard Law School

Wasserstein Fellow, has served as an international election observer in Albania, and is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law as well as the ABA's Working Group on Building Trust in the American Justice System. An accomplished writer, she also has published numerous articles and two book chapters.

Throughout the years, Ms. Abudu has devoted her considerable energy and talents to upholding the rights of those for whom she advocated – from veterans and others with disabilities, to people of faith seeking religious accommodations and protection from discrimination, people experiencing homelessness, and people seeking to exercise the right to vote. She has done so zealously, as an ethical lawyer's oath requires, and also with excellence and integrity. If confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Abudu will uphold her oath as a judge with equal dedication by applying the Constitution and laws of our country in a fair, open-minded and impartial manner.

In short, Ms. Abudu's wide-ranging legal experience, devotion to the public interest, proven commitment to ensuring equal access to justice and the judicial system, and understanding of the importance of a judicial system that respects the diversity of its citizens and their right to appropriate and equitable access to justice make her an exceptional candidate for the federal bench. For these reasons stated above, GABWA is proud to support Ms. Abudu's nomination. If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact me at (678) 472-0377 or at president@gabwa.org. We urge you to support Nancy Abudu's speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,


Shiriki Cavitt Jones
GABWA President
P.O. Box 4381
Atlanta, Georgia 30302