

GHANA DIASPORA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COLLECTIVE  
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May 2, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Ghana Diaspora Public Affairs Collective's Support for Nancy Abudu 11th Circuit Nomination

On behalf of the Ghanaian American community Ghana Diaspora Public Affairs Collective writes to urge the Committee to swiftly consider and work with Senate leadership to confirm Ms. Nancy G. Abudu to serve on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ghana Diaspora Public Affairs Collective is an advocacy organization founded by Ghanaian Americans focused on empowering Ghanaians in the diaspora and advancing U.S.-Ghana relations. We represent one of the fastest growing and naturalizing communities in the United States.

Ghanaian Americans represent a growing population of Americans who weave a critical thread in this country's tapestry. From the cab driver to the lawyer to the essential worker on the frontline of the pandemic, Ghanaian Americans are proud of our reputation of being hard workers who believe in the American Dream. However, the American Dream must be protected, and it must be accessible to all. Ms. Abudu's life's work to protect the right to vote as promised by the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as well as her extensive legal experience makes her more than qualified to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit. **President Biden's nomination of Ms. Abudu has garnered deep pride and appreciation from our community.**

Abudu's deep experience makes her an ideal addition to the 11th Circuit. A graduate of Columbia University and Tulane University School of Law, she has spent the majority of her career in public service. During her time at Skadden Arps—one of the preeminent law firms in the country—she represented indigent clients for the Legal Aid Society of New York's Harlem Office. Later in her career she moved to Georgia, where she gained direct experience working for the 11th Circuit, as Staff

Attorney. In this position, she reviewed appeals that were before the court as a staff attorney. Abudu went on to have a long and accomplished career in civil rights as a litigator at the ACLU's Voting Rights Project in Georgia, the Legal Director of the ACLU of Florida, and the Deputy Legal Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The states under the jurisdiction of the 11th Circuit– Georgia, Florida, and Alabama– have been the source of some of the most visible civil rights issues in recent times. The most recent example of this is the passage of voter restriction laws in Georgia and Florida in violation of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Given Abudu's experience a litigator on constitutional issues such as free speech, religious freedom, education, employment discrimination and criminal justice, she is uniquely qualified to adjudicate matters brought before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In addition, Abudu would be the first Black woman to serve on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, a court which serves a population that is 26% Black and ethnically diverse. Her presence on the bench will provide a demographically diverse perspective informed by lived experience and a deep knowledge of civil and human rights laws will provide fair and equal justice to all.

At a time when critical civil rights issues are being litigated in our federal courts, Abudu's perspective and appreciation for the promise this country holds is greatly needed in our court system.

Ghana Diaspora Public Affairs Collective sincerely urges you to advance Abudu's nomination through the Senate.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Arthur, Chief Development Officer at [sarthur@ghpac.org](mailto:sarthur@ghpac.org).

*Forward Ever, Backward Never*

Sincerely,

**Ghana Diaspora Public Affairs Collective**

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