

February 27, 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: *Arianna J. Freeman, Esquire*
Judicial Nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are members of the Pennsylvania legal community who write to you in enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Arianna J. Freeman as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She is a respected member of our legal community and is an inspired choice for the court.

We reflect a wide range of personal and professional backgrounds and experiences and include the following: civil lawyers, in-house counsel, criminal defense and public interest lawyers, former government attorneys, lawyers at large law firms, and legal academics. Each of us knows Ms. Freeman either from interacting with her professionally and personally or from learning about her and her impressive background recently. We each believe that Ms. Freeman would bring to the court a unique blend of substantial intellect, work ethic, and life and professional experiences.

Ms. Freeman's experience, background, and qualifications speak for themselves. After graduating from Swarthmore College (with honors) and Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for two Judges and thereafter has worked at the Federal Community Defender Office (FCDO) for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Throughout her career as a federal public defender, she has litigated dozens of post-conviction cases to judgment in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and has appeared frequently in the district court to examine witnesses at evidentiary hearings or to present oral argument. As a Managing Attorney at the FCDO, she is a leader in the office and also regularly offers guidance and training to her colleagues and attorneys outside of the FCDO.

Ms. Freeman also knows the Third Circuit well as evidenced by her role as lead or co-counsel in 28 appeals and her experience in presenting oral arguments to the Third Circuit seven times, including once to the *en banc* Court.

As shown above, Ms. Freeman has dedicated her entire professional life to public service, namely as a lawyer representing among our most vulnerable populations -- indigent defendants in state and federal custody. She also dedicates herself to molding young minds and mentoring promising students as an Adjunct Professor at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law. Her confirmation would add a distinct, unique, and powerful voice to the court and would be historically significant as she would become the first woman of color to sit on the Third Circuit. The perspective that she would offer would help address the pressing need for a greater range of professional and personal experiences on the federal bench in general, and on the Third Circuit in particular. And that perspective would also benefit the Third Circuit, given the tremendous array of matters, interests, litigants, and issues that regularly come before the court.

In short, we believe that Arianna J. Freeman represents the best of our legal community and will be an outstanding addition to the Third Circuit.*

Respectfully,

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