

July 19, 2021

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 Sarala V. Nagala for District Court of Connecticut

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to voice our strong support for the nomination of our former colleague Sarala V. Nagala to the federal district court of Connecticut and to encourage her confirmation. We are a group of partners and former partners at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP who were familiar with Sarala's work and contributions to the firm when she was a litigation associate at our firm from September 2009 to July 2012.

We come from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives but are united in our agreement that Sarala would make an excellent federal district court judge. Sarala spent the first three years of her post-clerkship legal career with us, working as a civil litigator before joining the United States Attorney's office. During her time with us, she demonstrated that she is an extremely intelligent and disciplined thinker, an excellent colleague who approaches problems and relationships with a calm and measured demeanor and strong spirit of cooperation, and a highly competent and ethical member of the legal profession.

Sarala joined our San Francisco office following her clerkship with Judge Susan B. Graber on the Ninth Circuit. While she was with our firm, she handled a variety of complex civil litigation matters for clients in the banking, technology and entertainment industries. Our firm prides itself on providing associates with early responsibility, and Sarala thrived in that environment. She worked side by side with partners on her matters, doing everything from developing overall case strategy, managing discovery and researching key issues to taking depositions, working with experts, and drafting important dispositive motions. She quickly emerged as a thought leader on her cases, showing initiative and creativity in solving our clients' hardest problems. She also demonstrated maturity and judgment beyond her years, bringing to her work a sophisticated, nuanced approach more commonly seen in far more experienced attorneys. Sarala also distinguished herself in several large complex matters by mastering

massive and complicated factual records as needed to litigate and resolve these matters. Throughout her time with us, Sarala distinguished herself as a balanced, thoughtful attorney who carefully considered issues and took seriously her representation of clients and her understanding of the law as it affected those clients.

Sarala also had an active pro bono practice while working at Munger Tolles. One of her biggest pro bono matters was *Vasquez v. Rackauckas* in the Central District of California, where she assisted in the representation of a class of individuals alongside the ACLU in a procedural due process challenge to the enforcement of a permanent injunction issued against an alleged gang and its members in Orange County. Sarala was a member of a trial team that conducted a two week bench trial, where Sarala examined witnesses and worked on significant pre- and post-trial motions. Sarala demonstrated on this matter that she can be a tireless and passionate advocate, that she is cheerful and creative even under the pressures of trial, that she is compassionate, and that she has a brilliant legal mind.

Sarala contributed not just to our clients, but to our firm. She was an active member of our diversity committee, and it became clear that promoting and supporting diversity in the legal profession was a critical priority for her. To that end, she organized and participated in panel presentations to diverse law school students at various law school campuses to encourage diverse attorneys to consider law firms, and our firm in particular, upon graduation. She also created a “cupcakes and conversation” program at her alma mater, Berkeley Law School, to bring together diverse law school students for “off the record” conversations about law firm life with the goal of increasing the pipeline of diverse lawyers entering the profession. She was excellent at recruiting and law school outreach because she had such an approachable, calm, and honest demeanor. Law students trusted her to guide them.

Based on our extensive experience working with Sarala, we believe that she adheres to the highest ethical standards and is committed to following the law. She has a deep respect for the judicial system and the role that lawyers, lower courts, and appellate courts play in that system. In light of all the above, we strongly believe that, as a federal district court judge, Sarala would follow applicable legal precedents, treat litigants and counsel with respect, manage her courtroom effectively, and make a longstanding and positive contribution to the judiciary and the legal system.

We were proud to call Sarala our colleague and to have been one step on her impressive career path. It has been a privilege to watch her advance to great success as a federal prosecutor in Connecticut. Based on our experiences with Sarala, we believe that she would be an excellent federal district court judge and we enthusiastically support her nomination.

Respectfully,

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