



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: **Letter of Support for Sarala Nagala for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) extends its strong support for the historic nomination of Sarala Nagala to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. If confirmed, Ms. Nagala will be the first Asian Pacific American (APA) woman to serve as an Article III judge in the District of Connecticut.

NAPABA represents the interests of over 60,000 legal professionals and nearly 90 national, state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations. NAPABA is a leader in addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities. Through its national network, NAPABA provides a strong voice for increased diversity of the federal and state judiciaries, advocates for equal opportunity in the workplace, works to eliminate hate crimes and anti-immigrant sentiment, and promotes the professional development of people of all backgrounds in the legal profession.

Ms. Nagala currently serves as the Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Unit at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, where she is responsible for overseeing prosecutions involving human trafficking, child exploitation, hate crimes, and government program fraud. She has also served as the District's Hate Crimes Coordinator. With nearly a decade of experience as a federal prosecutor, she is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2015 Director's Award for Superior Performance as a Criminal Assistant U.S. Attorney, and the 2018 District of Connecticut "Standing Tall" Award. She has also taught as a visiting clinical lecturer in law at Yale Law School.

Ms. Nagala's own compelling family history includes having doctor parents who immigrated from India and completed their medical residencies in North Dakota. They provided care for critically underserved areas, and this experience has inspired Ms. Nagala's strong commitment to justice and instilled in her a deep sense of personal responsibility to her community and a career dedicated to public service. Ms. Nagala is endorsed by NAPABA's affiliate, the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the sole association geared towards Asian Pacific American attorneys in the state.

Ms. Nagala is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of California Berkeley School of Law where she graduated Order of the Coif, and was a member of the *California Law Review*. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Judge Susan P. Graber on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sarala Nagala is well qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut and NAPABA strongly supports her nomination and urges swift action by this committee and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.B. Cruz III', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

RADM A.B. Cruz III, USN (ret.)
President