

September 12, 2022

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

**On behalf of the 200,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I write to express our support for the nomination of Julie Rikelman to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.** With outstanding qualifications and a deep commitment to equal justice, Julie Rikelman would bring that ethos as well as a wealth of professional and personal experience to the bench.

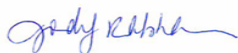
Ms. Rikelman's life and career have helped shaped the lawyer she is and the judge she would be. She came to the United States from Ukraine at the age of six with her parents, Soviet Jews seeking freedom and equal treatment. Leaving the country where their family had lived for generations, Ms. Rikelman and her parents experienced firsthand the challenges of being a refugee, starting over with limited resources in a country where language and employment were challenging and discrimination was ever present. This family struggle, during her formative years, shaped her commitment to justice and approach to the law.

Indeed, Ms. Rikelman's professional experience has been primarily focused on helping those in need. From law school, she clerked for Justice Dana Fabe on the Alaska Supreme Court and Judge Morton Greenberg on the Third Circuit. In private practice, she litigated cases in state and federal court on a range of issues that would come before her as a federal judge including corporate contract disputes, employment discrimination, and constitutional law. She has argued two constitutional cases at the US Supreme Court, as well as cases that were impactful only to her individual clients and their families.

If confirmed, Ms. Rikelman would be the first immigrant woman and the first Jewish woman to serve on the First Circuit. Our Jewish values compel us to welcome the stranger, for once we were strangers. We know what it is like to be excluded and oppressed. Ms. Rikelman understands this intimately. It has driven her commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law, and its centrality to a legal system that provides fairness and equal justice for all.

Ms. Rikelman would bring to the court a vision of justice informed by her personal background and broad legal experience. She well understands what it is like to lack access, whether to equal opportunity, religious freedom, or health care. **Julie Rikelman would be a judge for everyone, and the Senate should move swiftly to confirm her to the First Circuit.**

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan  
Chief Policy Officer  
National Council of Jewish Women