



January 28, 2022

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for Nancy Abudu for Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) write in support of Nancy Abudu's nomination to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. NCAI and NARF have long called for the appointment of federal court judges who demonstrate an understanding of tribal sovereignty and the rights of Native American people.

Ms. Abudu is an excellent attorney with impeccable qualifications for a federal judgeship. She is an experienced litigator who has handled complex federal litigation matters in several subject matter areas. We would like to particularly highlight her work as lead counsel in *Janis v. Nelson*, in which she represented Native American voters who were illegally disenfranchised. With Ms. Abudu's pro bono assistance, her clients obtained settlement that ensured their ability to vote as well as the training of poll workers, which helped protect voting rights for similarly situated Native Americans in South Dakota.

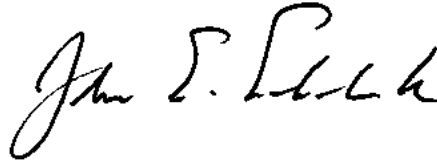
This type of background and experience defending the rights of Native Americans is important for federal judicial nominees. Many issues of daily life on tribal reservations are controlled by federal statutes and federal common law. Accordingly, Tribal Nations are affected by the federal courts to a greater degree than any other group in the country. It is critical for Tribal Nations within the Eleventh Circuit to have judges who understand the unique position of Native Americans and tribal governments.

NCAI and NARF hope that the United States Senate will move swiftly to confirm this outstanding nominee. If you have any questions, please contact NCAI CEO Dante Desiderio at [d-desiderio@ncai.org](mailto:d-desiderio@ncai.org) or (202) 466-7767, as well as NARF Staff Attorney Joel West Williams at [jwilliams@narf.org](mailto:jwilliams@narf.org) or (202) 785-4166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Sharp'.

Fawn Sharp, President  
National Congress of American Indians

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John E. Echohawk'.

John E. Echohawk, Executive Director  
Native American Rights Fund