

December 14, 2021

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 am writing in support of the nomination of Judge Alison Nathan to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Since receiving her law degree from Cornell University in 2000, Judge Nathan has had a long and distinguished legal career. She served as a law clerk for both Judge Betty Bins Fletcher on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as well as for Associate Justice John Paul Stevens on the US Supreme Court. Since her appointment as a judge to the US District Court for the Southern District of New York in 2011, Judge Nathan has handled a number of high-profile cases including *American Broadcasting Cos, Inc. v. Aereo, Inc.*, *United States v. Ali Sadr Hashemi Nejad*, and *Republic of Turkey v. Christie's Inc. et al.* In each of these cases, Judge Nathan has proven to be impartial and dedicated to equal justice, a commitment that would make her an invaluable addition to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit — one of the largest and most influential appellate courts.

Along with her impressive judicial record and background, Judge Nathan would bring a critical perspective to the bench — if confirmed, she would be only the second openly LGBTQ+ woman to serve on a US Court of Appeals. Approximately 8% of the United States population identifies as LGBTQ+, yet less than 1% of currently appointed federal judges and magistrates openly identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Diversity on the bench is critical to ensuring a fair and impartial federal judiciary.

Indeed our Jewish tradition supports having an unbiased judiciary, “Judges need to be people of strength through good deeds.... And they need to be clean of any infraction, so that no one can make any claim of bias against them.” Throughout her career, Judge Nathan has demonstrated an unyielding adherence to justice and truth under the law for everyone.

Without hesitation, NCJW urges you to support the nomination of Judge Alison Nathan to the prestigious United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women