



April 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

RE: The National Urban League's Support for Nancy Abudu 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Nomination

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the National Urban League's 92 affiliates in 37 states and the District of Columbia, we write to urge the Committee to swiftly consider and work with Senate leadership to confirm Nancy Abudu to serve on the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. As a historic civil rights organization that has worked to ensure that all people are equally protected under the law and in our court systems, the National Urban League strongly supports Abudu's nomination and believes that her background and extensive legal experience, including her work representing members of historically marginalized communities within the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, will provide a needed perspective to the court.

Abudu's experience make her an ideal addition to the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit. A graduate of Columbia University and Tulane University School of Law, she has spent most of her career in public service. While starting her career working for top law firm Skadden Arps, she spent time representing indigent clients for the Legal Aid Society of New York's Harlem Office. When she moved to Georgia, she gained direct experience working for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, where she reviewed appeals that were before the court as a staff attorney. Abudu went on to have a long and accomplished career in civil rights as a litigator at the ACLU's Voting Rights Project in Georgia, the Legal Director of the ACLU of Florida, and the Deputy Legal Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

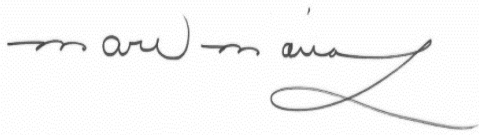
The states within the 11th Circuit, which includes Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, have been the source of the some of the most visible civil rights issues in recent times, including the Shelby County, Alabama coverage under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and the recent voter suppression laws passed in Georgia and Florida. The experience that Abudu has gained throughout her career has made her an expert on these constitutional issues that directly impact people in these states, as well as other civil rights matters related to free speech, religious freedom, education, employment discrimination, and criminal justice.

In addition, Abudu would be the first Black woman to serve on the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, a court which serves a population that is 26% Black. Her presence on the bench will provide a demographically diverse perspective that has long been missing in the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit and her deep civil

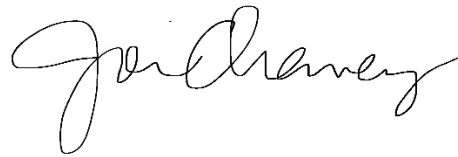
rights litigation experience demonstrates that she will uphold the rights that have long been fought for by the Urban League movement.

At a time when critical civil rights issues are being litigated in our federal courts, Abudu's professional and demographic diversity will move us closer to having a judicial system comprised of judges who are conscious of the need to protect the rights of all who stand before its courts. The National Urban League sincerely urges you to advance Abudu's nomination quickly through the Senate. For more information, please contact Yvette Badu-Nimako, Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs at [ybadu@nul.org](mailto:ybadu@nul.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "marc morial". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Marc H. Morial  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
National Urban League

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joi Chaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joi O. Chaney  
Executive Director, Washington Bureau  
Senior Vice President, Policy & Advocacy  
National Urban League