



September 6, 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 our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, People For the American Way is writing in support of the nomination of Cindy Chung to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She is currently the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Her extensive experience as a litigator, including prosecuting civil rights violations, will make her an excellent judge. She would also be the first AAPI judge ever on the Third Circuit.

Cindy Chung was born to parents who had recently immigrated from the Republic of Korea. She graduated from Yale University in 1997 and Columbia Law School in 2002, then clerked for U.S. Judge Myron Thompson in the Middle District of Alabama. In 2003, she became an assistant district attorney in New York County, eventually focusing on official corruption and civil rights violations.

In 2009, she moved to Washington, DC, to become a trial attorney at the Justice Department Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section. In this capacity, she litigated the prosecutions of civil rights and human trafficking crimes. Then in 2014, she became an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Pennsylvania. Over the following seven years, she helped investigate and prosecute crimes in areas including hate crimes, human trafficking, money laundering, drugs, national security, fraud, intellectual property theft, and cybercrime. She also held a number of positions of responsibility, including Civil Rights Coordinator, Domestic Violence Coordinator, and Project Safe Neighborhood Coordinator.

In 2021, upon the bipartisan recommendation and support of Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey,ⁱ President Biden nominated Chung to be the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. The Senate confirmed her to that position by voice vote. She is now the chief federal law enforcement officer in an area covering 25 counties and including the city of Pittsburgh. She also chairs the Justice Department's Juvenile Violence Working Group and serves as a member of the Department's Implicit Bias Training Development Working Group.

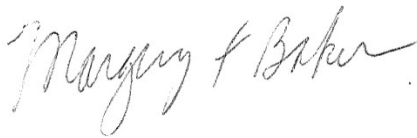
Over the course of her career, Chung has been an instrumental part of the federal investigations and prosecutions of a number of federal civil rights violations, including the first prosecution based on the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act. In that case, three men hurled anti-Mexican slurs at five individuals at a gas station in Arkansas, followed them in their car when they left, and ran them off the road. The victims' car hit a tree and burst into flames.ⁱⁱ In another Arkansas case, she helped prosecute four people for the racially-motivated firebombing of an

interracial couple's home.ⁱⁱⁱ In Maryland, she prosecuted Gloria and Alfred Edwards for luring a Filipina woman to the United States under false pretenses, taking her passport, and telling her she would have to pay them \$20,000 if she were to leave. The couple kept her apart from her husband and children in the Philippines for a decade, forcing her to work in their home for little to no pay.^{iv}

Chung has also held law enforcement officials accountable for violent abuse. For instance, she helped prosecute six New Orleans police officers in the infamous Danziger Bridge shootings of six unarmed Black civilians after Hurricane Katrina. They were charged with murder, attempted murder, and covering up their crime.^v She also prosecuted Pittsburgh police officer Sgt. Stephen Matakovich for repeatedly and needlessly punching a nonviolent individual at an event at Heinz Field and then falsifying his report of the incident.^{vi}

Cindy Chung has spent her career holding people accountable for violations of the laws that protect our safety and our lives. That experience will serve her well in her new capacity as a judge on the Third Circuit. We urge senators to quickly confirm her.

Sincerely,



Marge Baker
Executive Vice President

ⁱ “Casey and Toomey Announce Nomination of Cindy K. Chung as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania,” Sen. Casey press statement, Oct. 28, 2021, <https://www.casey.senate.gov/news/releases/casey-and-toomey-announce-nomination-of-cindy-k-chung-as-us-attorney-for-the-western-district-of-pennsylvania>.

ⁱⁱ *United States v. Maybee* et al., 3:11-CR-30006 (W.D. Ar.) (Hendren, J.), aff’d, 687 F.3d 1026 (8th Cir. 2012) (Loken, Gruender, Benton, JJ.), cert. denied, 133 S. Ct. 556 (2012).

ⁱⁱⁱ *United States v. Barnwell* et al., 4:11-CR-62 (E.D. Ar.) (Wilson, J.).

^{iv} *United States v. Edwards* et al., 8:11-CR-316 (D. Md.) (Chasanow, J.).

^v *United States v. Bowen* et al., 969 F. Supp. 2d 546 (E.D. La. 2013) (Engelhardt, J.), aff’d, 799 F.3d 336 (5th Cir. 2015) (Jones, Clement, Prado, JJ.).

^{vi} *United States v. Matakovich*, 2:16-CR-73 (W.D. Pa.) (Bissoon, J.), aff’d, 758 F. App’x 295 (3d Cir. 2018) (Jordan, Vanaskie, Nygaard, JJ.).