



January 20, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in support of Nancy Abudu, nominee for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am thrilled and honored to write this letter in support of Ms. Nancy Abudu's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. I have known of Ms. Abudu's professional reputation for several years and observed her legal skills closely for the past five years. Based on this knowledge, my observations, and my decades of working with law students, lawyers, and judges, I have complete confidence that Ms. Abudu has all the attributes necessary to serve on our federal appellate court with distinction. She has the experience, talent, and intellect to excel in the complex work of the federal judiciary. She has the judgment, impartiality, and the respect for the rule of law that every judge must hold to do the job properly. Ms. Abudu also has the grace, personal integrity, and professional ethics essential for persons appointed to resolve disputes under the law. Moreover, Ms. Abudu has an extraordinary work ethic and the case management skills to exceed the demands on the court. I endorse her nomination unequivocally and with the greatest enthusiasm.

It has been my privilege and honor to teach and prepare future lawyers for over thirty-five years. For the past thirty-one years, I have served as Constitutional scholar and professor at The University of Alabama School of Law. I have taught, observed, and evaluated tens of thousands of law students, recommending many of them for professional opportunities, including judicial posts.

Bryan K. Fair – Thomas E. Skinner Professor of Law
(205) 348-7494 | Fax (205) 348-7850 | bfair@law.ua.edu

Box 870382 | 101 Paul W. Bryant Drive | Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0382

In my estimation, Ms. Abudu embodies all the traits of an exemplary jurist. Anyone who meets her immediately recognizes that she is exceptionally bright, talented, and intellectually curious. Her formative training at Columbia and Tulane prepared her to become an effective legal advocate for her clients. She is a seasoned litigator with broad experience in federal and state courts, including the federal circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court. She worked for a large, international law firm and she was a young staff attorney for the Eleventh Circuit, before taking her talents to several national nonprofit organizations to protect civil liberties and civil rights. Ms. Abudu has an outstanding professional reputation and an exceptional rating as a lawyer. I have observed her as a case manager and advocate. We have regularly discussed legal questions and Ms. Abudu has a sophisticated command of the law and a brilliant mind. Her legal writing is precise and persuasive. Her legal acumen, management skills, and work habits will make her an extremely effective judge.

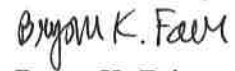
Ms. Abudu isn't just smart, talented, and experienced. She has the personal and professional temperament to serve as a federal circuit court judge. People who know her understand that she has enormous respect for the rule of law. In fact, she has devoted her professional life to it. Like many outstanding judicial nominees before her, Ms. Abudu knows that fidelity to the rule of law is a cornerstone of American democracy. She has been a fierce advocate for her clients, often challenging existing interpretations of the law, but always within the confines of our judicial system. Ms. Abudu knows that judges must be impartial to the parties before them and must follow established law. She understands the difference between serving as a zealous advocate for a client and serving as an impartial judge who is required to uphold the Constitution and to follow precedent. Moreover, I have personally witnessed Ms. Abudu handle challenges and conflict with an unflappable and imperturbable demeanor, the type of disposition required of our federal jurists.

Ms. Abudu has the personal and professional ethics to serve on the court with honor and integrity. Raised primarily by her father, she is a first-generation, Ghanaian-American attorney. He taught her to care about the rights of others and to reject discriminatory practices whether based on gender, race, class, or some other ground. Ms. Abudu is a devoted mother of two teenage daughters. Raising them and watching them thrive has been one of the greatest joys of her life. The values and principles she developed through her upbringing and family inspired Ms. Abudu to work tirelessly to promote fairness and due process for all under the law and fidelity to the law. She has represented a broad array of clients presenting diverse legal questions in courts across the country. She has broad experience with constitutional litigation in areas such as religious liberty, freedom of expression, and voting rights, among others. I have observed firsthand Ms. Abudu work week after week, and year after year, to plan and prepare cases for trial and argument. She doesn't take shortcuts. She does whatever is needed to best prepare for every matter. Without reservation, I can attest that Ms. Abudu has unimpeachable ethical standards; she will be a fair-minded jurist; and she will bring that same work ethic to the bench.

In addition to her talent, skill, and ethics, Ms. Abudu is a wonderful person. She cares about all people, including the most vulnerable. She works well with others, including opposing counsel. Ms. Abudu is well respected by the bar and the bench. Her grace and patience will allow her to work with colleagues on the court and with all the parties presenting matters before it.

I am confident Ms. Abudu will be an effective jurist and that she will perform her duties exceptionally well. I endorse her nomination without any reservation. For all the reasons stated above, I hope you will support her nomination as well.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan K. Fair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Bryan K. Fair