

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Sarala Vidya Nagala to the United States District Court for of the District of Connecticut.

Each of us know Sarala as either a colleague or an adversary from her distinguished career at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut. Some of us are former federal prosecutors who worked closely with Sarala during her tenure in that Office. Twenty of us are criminal defense attorneys who represented individual defendants, witnesses and victims in cases that Sarala investigated, prosecuted or supervised. We have all had the opportunity to observe first-hand Sarala's integrity, intellect and excellent judgment. Throughout her career, she has consistently demonstrated herself to be a thoughtful, balanced and highly ethical prosecutor who is solely dedicated to the fair and impartial administration of justice. Although we come from different backgrounds and perspectives, we all believe that Sarala will make an exceptional district court judge.

Sarala is eminently qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court. She excelled at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, graduating near the top of her class and serving on the California Law Review, and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Stanford University, where she received the Outstanding Public Policy Student award. Early in her career, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Susan P. Graber, a widely respected judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. At the San Francisco office of the law firm Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, Sarala worked on complex commercial litigation matters in federal and state court and a successful civil rights trial, and was recognized by the ACLU for her pro bono work.

As a federal prosecutor in Connecticut for the last nine years, Sarala's adversaries found her to be a fair and open-minded advocate who effectively reached just results. Responsible for a large number and variety of cases, she focused on human trafficking, child exploitation, hate

crimes and financial fraud. She has tried five cases to verdict, and briefed and argued multiple cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. As the Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Unit, she has supervised the work of other prosecutors and has served in numerous leadership roles in the Office. For many years, she has been the primary contact for particularly sensitive investigations involving trafficking, hate crimes and international matters. She has also played a critical role in the hiring and training of new prosecutors, and received a prestigious national award from the Department of Justice for a complex Romanian computer fraud prosecution.

Sarala's parents, first generation immigrants, are doctors who have dedicated their lives to the underserved in rural communities in North Dakota. As a prosecutor, Sarala similarly devoted herself to impactful community outreach and engagement, demonstrating her commitment to all who live in Connecticut. She coordinated the training of over 1,200 police officers in cultural competency, organized "Protecting Your House of Worship" events for religious groups, and educated hundreds of police, social workers, hospital staff, educators and community members about human trafficking. These initiatives, which Sarala often spearheaded single-handedly, were highly effective in improving the reach and impact of law enforcement in the State.

We are confident Sarala will serve with distinction and enthusiastically support her nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

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