



Supporting the South Asian legal community with a trusted forum for professional growth and development while promoting civil rights and access to justice for the South Asian community

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February 26, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

**Re: Endorsement of Nusrat Jahan Choudhury as United States District
Judge for the Eastern District of New York**

Dear Honorable Richard J. Durbin and Honorable Charles E. Grassley:

The South Asian Bar Association of North America (“SABA North America”), the umbrella organization for 29 local chapters across the United States and Canada, writes in enthusiastic support of the historic nomination of Nusrat Jahan Choudhury to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. Ms. Choudhury’s breadth of experience, unwavering commitment to justice and fairness, sound temperament, and diverse perspective unequivocally qualify her to be a district court judge.

SABA North America represents the rapidly growing South Asian legal community across North America. The organization promotes the professional growth and advancement of attorneys of South Asian descent and strives to protect the rights and liberties of the South Asian community. In light of its mission and vision, SABA North America recognizes a critical need for greater participation by South Asian-Americans in the federal judiciary. Through the appointment of Ms. Choudhury as well as other highly qualified South Asians to federal courts nationwide, we expect that significant progress towards fulfilling that need will be achieved.

Ms. Choudhury’s breadth of experience underscores her qualifications to be a district court judge. Over the course of her career, Ms. Choudhury has worked on more than two dozen complex federal civil cases, served as lead counsel in at least sixteen matters, handling at least eight class action lawsuits. Through these experiences, Ms. Choudhury has shown time and again that she has critical skills required of a U.S. District Court Judge, namely the ability to engage in high level legal analysis, writing, and oral communications. Further, her participation in a wide range of cases demonstrates the breadth of her legal acumen as well as her commitment to the rule of law.

Throughout her career, Ms. Choudhury has also shown a deep commitment to justice and fairness. For example, through her work with the American Bar Association Working Group on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System and the



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National Task Force on Fines and Fees, Ms. Choudhury collaborated with people and groups having widely varied perspectives, namely judges, court clerks, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Ultimately, she helped establish national standards for fair and impartial treatment in the imposition and collection of court fines and fees. Such efforts demonstrate her dedication to justice and fairness showing that, as a judge, she would be neutral and impartial.

Ms. Choudhury has also worked closely and collegially with opposing counsel and has forged partnerships between the ACLU of Illinois and organizations with widely divergent views—including the Cato Institute, the Rutherford Institute, the Institute for Justice, and the R Street Institute—to identify and advance shared principles of fairness and equal justice. Ms. Choudhury’s ability to work with varied people and organizations evinces that she has the sound temperament required of a district court judge.

If confirmed, Ms. Choudhury would be the first Muslim woman, the first Bangladeshi-American, and one of a handful of South Asian women to serve on the federal bench. Ms. Choudhury’s appointment would not only bring a much-needed diverse perspective to the federal bench but would also be profoundly meaningful to the South Asian legal community and the community-at large. Ms. Choudhury’s appointment would undoubtedly inspire generations of Muslim-Americans and South Asians to enter into the federal judiciary and enter the legal profession.

For all of these reasons, SABA North America proudly and enthusiastically supports Ms. Choudhury’s historic nomination for District Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination for to the full Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samir Mehta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Samir Mehta, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara M. Raghavan". The signature is very fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Tara M. Raghavan, President-Elect