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February 29, 2024

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Historic Nominee Adeel Mangi: File Cloture

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of Muslim Advocates, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Adeel Mangi to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Mr. Mangi has a stellar record of complex litigation and pro bono service dedicated to ensuring that all people—regardless of their race, religion, or sexual orientation—are treated fairly. Despite his unassailable credentials, Mr. Mangi is facing an onslaught of racist, anti-Muslim attacks by a dark-money group.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Mangi urgently requires your support. His promise as an exceptional jurist aside, his confirmation would send a strong message that attacks based on hatred and bigotry fail, and that highly qualified, fair-minded, and ethical judges are exactly what our judiciary needs.

Muslim Advocates fights for justice for all Americans and we take our responsibility as legal advocates for American Muslims and all marginalized communities very seriously. We have filed major litigation to end police surveillance based on racial and religious profiling, to protect Muslims' religious expression while incarcerated, and to provide relief to families separated by the Muslim Ban. We believe that the role of our courts is to ensure equality under the law for all people, regardless of wealth, power, or privilege. In our work, we routinely represent poor, non-citizen, and historically disfavored litigants confronting seemingly insurmountable power imbalances in the courtroom. This is because for too long, powerful special interests have rigged the system to favor wealthy elites and corporations. In those settings, achieving just outcomes consistent with the rule of law and the highest ideals of American constitutional democracy requires jurists with superb legal acumen and experience applying doctrine in an array of high-stakes disputes.

Mr. Mangi has proven his excellent credentials in this regard. His record of protecting religious freedom, asylum rights, and other fundamental liberties for those communities furthest from power is exemplary. Muslim Advocates had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Mangi on matters of pressing national policy, such as the threatened repeal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

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<sup>1</sup> "'Disgusting': Dark Money Group Unveils Wildly Islamophobic Ads Against Biden Court Pick," Huffpost (Feb. 16, 2024), [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/muslim-judicial-nominee-adeel-mangi-jcn-islamophobic-campaign\\_n\\_65ce35d6e4b043f1c0aa4231](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/muslim-judicial-nominee-adeel-mangi-jcn-islamophobic-campaign_n_65ce35d6e4b043f1c0aa4231).



T: 202 897 2622  
F: 202 508 1007



info@muslimadvocates.org  
www.muslimadvocates.org



P.O. Box 34440  
Washington, DC 20043

(DACA).<sup>2</sup> We have also joined with broad coalitions on numerous amicus briefs that Mr. Mangi shepherded, including one in favor of employment discrimination protections for LGBT workers,<sup>3</sup> and others arguing against funding for a border wall<sup>4</sup> that continues daily to cause serious harm and injuries to migrants.<sup>5</sup> These experiences give us unique insight into his commitment to professional excellence, passion for justice and collective responsibility, and his sharp legal skills—as well as his warmth and collegiality. Confirming Mr. Mangi will move us closer to having courts that better represent all people in America and that guarantee equality under the law.

Mr. Mangi also has a distinguished record of professional achievements. He served as lead counsel in a software trade secrets case in Virginia and won a \$2 billion jury verdict, the largest sum in the history of the Virginia courts. He also represented the sister and estate of Karl Taylor, a mentally ill Black man in New York state prison who was killed by guards.<sup>6</sup> Mangi's representation helped secure the largest-ever settlement with New York state in a case involving the death of an incarcerated person. In addition, Mr. Mangi has represented religious groups and institutions in cases familiar to Muslim Advocates, involving claims of religious discrimination in the application of zoning laws for two New Jersey communities seeking to build mosques. In one case, Mr. Mangi represented the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge (ISBR) after local authorities altered zoning rules to prevent the group from building a mosque. Anti-Muslim hate had permeated years of public hearings and community opposition to the mosque, including claims that animal sacrifice would be practiced at the mosque and defacing the Islamic Society's mailbox. The litigation concluded with a \$3.25 million settlement allowing the mosque to be built.

We are outraged but not surprised by the anti-Muslim attacks on Mr. Mangi at both his confirmation hearing and in the form of a hateful campaign by the Judicial Crisis Network premised on the racist trope that Muslims and Arabs innately hate Jews.<sup>7</sup> Muslim Advocates has worked in the past to ensure that Muslims seeking public positions are not put to a religious litmus test that singles them out for their faith.<sup>8</sup> Time and again, American Muslims in public life are tarred for conduct and events to which they have zero connection. Such attacks are orchestrated by malicious actors who fan the flames of anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of bigotry to further their own political and financial goals, and in an election year their machinations lead to increased political and hate violence.<sup>9</sup> At this point the playbook is familiar, but no less demeaning or dangerous for Muslim

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<sup>2</sup> Brief of Amici Curiae 121 Religious Organizations in Support of Plaintiffs, *Vidal v. Trump*, No. 18-485(L), [https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/DACA-Amicus\\_2nd-Circuit.pdf](https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/DACA-Amicus_2nd-Circuit.pdf); Brief of Amici Curiae 127 Religious Organizations in Support of Respondents, *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*, 591 U.S. \_\_\_ (2019), [https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/DACA-Amicus\\_SCOTUS.pdf](https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/DACA-Amicus_SCOTUS.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Brief of Amici Curiae Muslim Bar Association of New York et. al in Support of Employees, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 590 U.S. 644 (2020), <https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/Muslim-Organizations-Amicus-Brief.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Brief of Amici Curiae 75 Religious Organizations in Support of Plaintiffs, *Sierra Club v. Trump*, 963 F.3d 874 (9th Cir. 2020), [https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/2019.08.22-Border-Wall-Amicus\\_9th-Circuit.pdf](https://pbwt2.gjassets.com/content/uploads/2019/10/2019.08.22-Border-Wall-Amicus_9th-Circuit.pdf);

<sup>5</sup> "A tragic milestone: San Diego region reaches new high in border wall injuries," KPBS (Nov. 30, 2023), <https://www.kpbs.org/news/border-immigration/2023/11/30/a-tragic-milestone-san-diego-region-reaches-new-high-in-border-wall-injuries>.

<sup>6</sup> "Karl Taylor Died in a New York Prison. Now the State Has Agreed to Pay Millions," The Marshall Project (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/02/28/karl-taylor-died-in-a-new-york-prison-now-the-state-has-agreed-to-pay-millions>.

<sup>7</sup> See "White House pushes back on GOP attacks on Muslim judicial nominee," NBC News (Feb. 16, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/white-house-pushes-back-gop-attacks-muslim-judicial-nominee-rcna139016>.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., <https://muslimadvocates.org/2021/09/muslim-advocates-blasts-senate-republicans-for-blocking-muslim-nominee/>.

<sup>9</sup> See "Political violence in polarized U.S. at its worst since 1970s," Reuters (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-politics-violence/>; "Hate crimes will spike around the 2024 presidential election, civil rights group warns," USA Today (Apr. 26, 2023), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/04/26/election-2024-hate-crimes-spike-anticipated/11706654002/>;

communities. Our charge to you is to recognize the discriminatory ploy for what it is and reject it outright. Similarly, cynical attacks that suggest Mr. Mangi is sympathetic to violence against law enforcement based on his limited ties to a Black-led organization that fights against mass incarceration by providing legal support for prisoners and their families are a dog-whistle attempt to stoke racialized fear of the Black communities most harmed by mass incarceration, who dare to challenge human rights violations in prisons. We cannot fight this alone: every branch of government and every Senator must do their part to combat hate and advance justice. The true test at crossroads like these is whether principle wins over base politics.

Mr. Mangi's own record of work, as well as his many professional achievements, betray the desperation in such bad-faith attacks. Mr. Mangi was named to Benchmark Litigation's 2024 and 2023 lists of the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers" in the U.S., a group venerated by peers and clients for excelling at the nuanced practice of trial law, based both confidential and public materials. He also received the "Client Service All-Star" award from The BTI Consulting Group, which recognizes attorneys who "stand above all the others in delivering the absolute best in client service." In addition, Mr. Mangi was named a "Rising Star" by the New York Law Journal and by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's Diversity & the Bar magazine. He was previously named as one of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's "Best Lawyers Under 40." A 2013 graduate of the Microsoft Litigation Group's highly prestigious Trial Advocacy Academy, Mr. Mangi was also the youngest associate to ever make partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, LLP.

Ultimately, Mr. Mangi's nomination is about protecting all people regardless of their race, religion or background. We need judges who value people's lived experiences and understand how our laws can make a difference for good and for ill. We need judges who understand the barriers to justice that exist in too many communities. That is why we urgently call on you to file cloture on Adeel Mangi so he can be confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Thank you for supporting Mr. Mangi, and we look forward to celebrating his confirmation soon.

Respectfully,



Omar Farah  
Executive Director



Sumayyah Waheed  
Senior Policy Counsel