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March 25, 2024

Via Email

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

Via Email

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Endorsement of Adeel A. Mangi, Esq. for United States Circuit Judge on the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the South Asian Bar Association of New York ("SABANY"), I write in enthusiastic support of the appointment of Adeel Mangi, Esq. to serve as a United States Circuit Judge on the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Having primarily practiced throughout his career in New York and New Jersey, Mr. Mangi is highly qualified to serve on the Court. During his 23-year career at a prominent law firm, he has litigated cases throughout the country in state and federal courts. Mr. Mangi has been lauded by many organizations with recognition including Benchmark Litigation's listing of "Top 100 Trial Lawyers" in the U.S., BTI Consulting Group's "Client Service All-Star" award, and New York Law Journal's "Rising Star" designation. In addition to Mr. Mangi's prolific work on complex commercial litigation matters, he is a staunch advocate of civil rights who has litigated on behalf of religious communities and the LGBTQ+ community.

Recent media reports suggest that there may not be enough votes in the Senate to confirm Mr. Mangi, who is poised to become the first Muslim-American to serve on any federal appeals court. It is in this context that we express our concern about recent questioning by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee at Mr. Mangi's confirmation hearing. During the hearing, a few short weeks after the horrific October 7th attack by Hamas abroad, Mr. Mangi was asked to affirmatively denounce the Holocaust and Hamas. He was further asked about how he "celebrates" 9/11. The line of questioning that some members of the Committee subjected Mr. Mangi to was beyond the pale and deeply troubling.

These segments of the confirmation hearing reduced the assessment of Mr. Mangi, an attorney of preeminent skill and qualification, to an unwarranted questioning of his bona fides as an American. Plainly, it is inexcusable that Mr. Mangi, who has advocated throughout his career for religious freedoms, would have doubt cast upon him because of his background as a Pakistani Muslim American. At base, we call for a greater sense of decorum from those Senate Judiciary Committee members who took part in the offensive questioning. We further call on the broader Senate to fairly consider Mr. Mangi's experience, ability, and temperament, and swiftly confirm his appointment to the Court.

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At SABANY, we have come to know Mr. Mangi through his steadfast commitment to professional excellence. His selection as Circuit Judge would be profoundly meaningful to the South Asian population of New York and the legal professionals within it. We are proud to support him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hena M. Vora', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hena M. Vora

Judiciary Committee

South Asian Bar Association of New York

Cc: Senator Cory Booker