

February 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

**Re: Nomination of Arianna J. Freeman to the U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Third Circuit**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are law professors from around the country with expertise in a variety of areas of law. We write to convey our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Arianna J. Freeman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Collectively, we are familiar with Ms. Freeman in a range of capacities, having either worked with her, taught her as a student, studied with her as a classmate, or observed her career. She is a brilliant, careful, and talented lawyer with impressive professional credentials and a strong commitment to fairness, equal justice, and the rule of law. She will be an outstanding member of the federal appellate bench.

Ms. Freeman's accomplishments demonstrate that she has the intelligence, temperament, and experience necessary to serve with excellence and distinction on the Third Circuit. She earned her B.A. with honors from Swarthmore College and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was awarded the Stephen J. Massey Prize and served as an editor on the *Yale Journal of International Law*. After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge C. Darnell Jones II and Judge James T. Giles, both of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Since 2009, she has worked at the Federal Community Defender Office in Philadelphia, where she currently serves as Managing Attorney of the Non-Capital Habeas Unit and previously served as an Assistant Federal Defender and a Research and Writing Specialist.

Ms. Freeman has substantial litigation experience at both the federal appellate and district court levels, so she will bring to the bench a sophisticated understanding of how cases proceed in federal court. She has appeared as lead or co-counsel in 28 appeals before the Third Circuit and presented oral argument on seven occasions, including to the *en banc* court. These cases have often required her to analyze and explain some complex and difficult legal questions, which she has demonstrated the ability to do clearly and effectively in both her written and oral presentations. Ms. Freeman also has played a valuable role in teaching and mentoring law students and other

lawyers, serving as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Drexel University Kline School of Law and regularly sharing her expertise in legal training programs. Through all of these experiences, Ms. Freeman has earned a reputation not only for her intellect, legal expertise, and effectiveness as an advocate, but also for her character, judgment, and integrity. She has exhibited a keen ability to engage novel and often challenging legal issues with judges, colleagues, opposing counsel, and law students in an open-minded, thoughtful, and respectful manner, which will serve her well as a member of a collegial, multi-member appellate court.

If confirmed, Ms. Freeman also would broaden the range of experiences and perspectives represented on the federal appellate bench in important and valuable ways. She would be the one of the first individuals with experience as a public defender to serve on the Third Circuit, bringing professional diversity to the court that would enrich and enhance its decision-making. Ms. Freeman also would be the first black woman and first woman of color ever to serve on the Third Circuit—a jurisdiction in which people of color represent approximately 33 percent and women represent approximately 51 percent of the general population, respectively—and would be one of only three women judges in active service on a court with fourteen active judicial positions.

In short, Ms. Freeman would be a marvelous addition to the federal appellate bench, and we are excited to support her nomination. We strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to promptly review and advance her nomination, so that the full Senate can promptly confirm her to the Third Circuit. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,*

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** All signatories have signed in their personal capacities, and institutional affiliations are noted for identification purposes only.*