

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

Feb. 8, 2022

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to offer our strong and enthusiastic support for Arianna Freeman's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and to urge her confirmation by the Senate.

As appellate practitioners in the Third Circuit, we know Ms. Freeman well. She has played an important role in the Third Circuit bar for years, and most of us have turned to her for her sharp insights into appellate practice and our own cases. We have co-counseled cases with her, consulted with her, watched her arguments, and read her briefs, and we uniformly support her nomination because of her intellect, commitment to even-handed justice, and dedication to the public good.

Arianna Freeman's talents have been clear since early in her career. In addition to clerking for two federal judges, she has served in several positions at the Federal Community Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. For more than a decade, she has worked on non-capital habeas cases—some of the most technically complex and substantively challenging of the Defender's caseload—including both leading that unit of the office and personally handling nearly thirty appeals at the Third Circuit. As the Managing Attorney of her unit, Ms. Freeman has also demonstrated the ability to manage an enormous caseload while supervising less experienced attorneys and staff.

Ms. Freeman has earned a reputation for clear, persuasive analysis of complicated legal issues, always crafted with fidelity to precedent. While she has deep knowledge of habeas and criminal law, she also has a high level of intellectual curiosity, sound judgment, and an unflagging work ethic. She is a respected source of unbiased expertise for lawyers working on habeas or criminal cases, regularly taking calls and conducting trainings. Though she is unfailingly modest and collegial in all interactions, she never hesitates to explain why a proposed approach does *not* work under existing law.

Beyond her professional service, Ms. Freeman also plays a significant role in the larger community. She supports nonprofit organizations doing important work, serving on the board of directors of both First Person Arts and the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women.

In our well-considered view, Arianna Freeman has the strong intellect, tenacious work ethic, and even temperament necessary to become an outstanding federal judge. Her integrity and experience will ensure that she will be ready to serve from the first day. Although we will miss consulting with her on our cases, we strongly urge the Committee to recommend, and the Senate to confirm, her appointment to the Third Circuit.

Respectfully,

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