

**ALUMNI OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICES, EDNY & SDNY
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF EUNICE C. LEE**

June 7, 2021

Senator Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned, are former federal prosecutors and alumni of the United States Attorneys' Offices for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. We write in support of the nomination of Eunice C. Lee to be a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and urge her swift consideration and confirmation.

Ms. Lee is currently an Assistant Federal Defender who works as an appellate attorney for the Federal Defenders of New York, Inc., and she previously served for more than two decades in the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York City. If confirmed, Ms. Lee would be the first federal public defender, and only the second African American woman, ever to serve as a judge on the Second Circuit.

Since graduating from Yale Law School and serving as a law clerk to two federal judges, Ms. Lee has spent over 20 years representing hundreds of clients in state and federal courts of appeals. As an adjunct law professor, she helped design and teach a course on appellate advocacy at New York University School of Law. In short, she is a brilliant, accomplished advocate, who is supremely well qualified to serve on the bench.

We enthusiastically support Ms. Lee not just because of her sterling credentials. We believe that after a career as a public defender serving indigent clients in criminal cases, Ms. Lee would bring a unique and under-represented perspective to the job of hearing and deciding federal appeals. Included among the judges on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals are many former federal prosecutors, including a number of our extremely talented former colleagues. We know that our former colleagues' work as federal prosecutors continues to provide critical experience that aids their efforts to administer justice in many of the cases that come before them. We also recognize, however, that the experience of representing indigent clients in criminal cases is no less valuable for a judge attempting to administer justice. And yet not a single judge who has ever served on the Second Circuit has ever worked as a federal public defender.

We applaud the Biden Administration's efforts to nominate talented lawyers who would bring professional diversity to our federal courts. Nowhere is that diversity more needed than in our own Second Circuit. In Eunice Lee, the President has nominated an incredibly talented lawyer and dedicated public servant, whose career representing the most vulnerable among us will bring a critical, unique perspective to the bench. Her deep commitment to the preservation of civil rights for all make her the right candidate at the right time for this important seat.

Respectfully submitted,

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