



January 27, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of Advancement Project National Office, we write to convey our strongest support for the nomination of Nancy Abudu to join the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Abudu is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the court and will bring with her both deep experience in litigation before the court and a deep understanding of the Constitution and laws she will take an oath to uphold.

The Advancement Project National Office is a 23-year-old next-generation, multi-racial civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. We work with communities of color to ensure they can thrive, be safe, and exercise power, including in the areas of voting rights, education justice, and the criminal legal system. Ms. Abudu has spent her career defending and advancing civil rights, and will bring critical perspectives and experiences to the bench. We are enthusiastic about her nomination.

Ms. Abudu's professional experiences have uniquely prepared her for the role of judge. Ms. Abudu's early career included positions as an associate at a large, traditional law firm and as a staff attorney at the Eleventh Circuit, where she experienced first-hand the distinct roles of the judges for whom she worked and the advocates who appeared before them. In 2005, Ms. Abudu made a choice to devote her education and experience to advocating for the protection of constitutional rights guaranteed to all Americans. Her work, first with the ACLU and later with SPLC, focused on providing legal representation to those experiencing discrimination and other harms.

Ms. Abudu's intellect, legal acumen, sound judgment, passion for justice, and impeccable integrity – qualities she will bring to the Court – have lent themselves to a remarkable career. In addition to being a gifted litigator, Ms. Abudu has become a leading and respected voice on civil and human rights. She is a Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow, has served as an international election observer in Albania, and is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law as well as the ABA's Working Group on Building Trust in the American Justice System. An accomplished writer, she also has published numerous articles and two book chapters.

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Throughout the years, Ms. Abudu has devoted her considerable energy and talents to upholding the rights of those for whom she advocated – from veterans and others with disabilities, to people of faith seeking religious accommodations and protection from discrimination, people experiencing homelessness, and people seeking to exercise the right to vote. She has done so zealously, as an ethical lawyer’s oath requires, and also with excellence and integrity. If confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Abudu will uphold her oath as a judge with equal dedication by applying the Constitution and laws of our country in a fair, open-minded and impartial manner.

We urge you to support Nancy Abudu’s speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith A. Browne Dianis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Browne Dianis
Executive Director
Advancement Project
National Office