

February 18, 2022

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

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are deans of law schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of New Jersey, and the State of Delaware who write to express support for the confirmation of Ms. Arianna J. Freeman as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. We thank President Joe Biden for identifying an experienced and eminently qualified nominee in Ms. Freeman. Furthermore, we thank the Committee and the full Senate for engaging in a prompt review, while also adjuring the Committee and the full Senate to confirm her nomination.

As deans of law schools represented in the Third Circuit, we are committed to administering our respective programs of legal education according to core values that promote professionalism, rigor, integrity, diversity, and inclusion. Furthermore, we recognize that a commitment to full representation is consistent with these core values, all of which work to instill public confidence in law schools as democratic institutions. Similarly, we understand that a commitment to these core values—inclusive of full representation in the legal profession and service on the courts—will promote public confidence in the legal profession and in the judiciary.

The people within Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands will benefit immensely from the diversity of experience, perspective, and background that Ms. Freeman will bring as a judge on the Third Circuit. Specifically, Ms. Freeman has a unique vantage point from which to observe society and to contribute to it in this role. She comes from the public defender tradition where she has served the most vulnerable among us, representing indigent defendants in state and federal custody. She has honed her skills as a litigator, public servant, teacher, and leader making the United States Constitution real for all members of American society. Such experience and perspective allow Ms. Freeman to connect judiciously with the people, matters, and organizational interests that are presented on appeal to the Third Circuit.

Ms. Arianna J. Freeman has dedicated the entirety of her career to public service. She is a leader at the Federal Community Defender Office (FDCO) for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In the role of Managing Attorney, she represents clients at all stages of the federal criminal process, from pre-trial proceedings to habeas corpus proceedings, while also training the next generation of public servants to provide exceptional legal services. As both a mentor and a leader at the FCDO, she teaches research and writing for the benefit of her colleagues, vital skills for lawyers and judge alike. In addition, she serves as an adjunct professor at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, further demonstrating her dedication to training the next generation of lawyers.

The nomination of Arianna J. Freeman to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is inspired and her ultimate confirmation will be inspiring. As legislative leaders in this great society, the Committee and the full Senate will be favorably rewarded with history's account of how you worked to elevate this brilliant lawyer to the bench. As law school deans responsible for administering programs of legal education, we will have in Ms. Freeman an important role model for our students to observe and emulate as they begin to form their professional identities.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Conway
Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law
Penn State Dickinson Law

Dan Filler
Dean and Professor of Law
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Kimberly Mutcherson
Dean and Professor of Law
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Widener University
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