

November 17, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We, the signatories below, are all former U.S. Department of Justice officials who write in support of the confirmation of Nicholas J. Ganjei to be a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Mr. Ganjei has dedicated his career to public service. After law school, he clerked for two renowned federal judges, then worked for over a decade as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He later served as Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, running that office for nearly a year before becoming Chief Counsel to Senator Ted Cruz, where Mr. Ganjei worked on legislation of national importance. In addition to his government service, Mr. Ganjei even found time to mentor younger generations, spending several years as an Adjunct Professor.

Since January 2025, Mr. Ganjei has served as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, where he has spearheaded high-profile prosecutions of human smugglers, drug traffickers, criminal aliens, and gang members. His role also requires significant familiarity with civil litigation involving the federal government.

Mr. Ganjei's rare combination of extensive courtroom experience and leadership roles in both the Department of Justice and the Senate makes him perfectly suited to serve as a District Judge. There is no doubt that he can assume and manage a heavy docket of criminal and civil matters on Day One. He will also be a collegial and supportive colleague. The judges of the Southern District have already voiced their support and respect for Mr. Ganjei by unanimously appointing him to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District to which he is now nominated to serve as a District Judge.

Above all else, Mr. Ganjei possesses the highest integrity and is deeply patriotic. Texas is lucky to have him. We respectfully urge the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate to move expeditiously to process and confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

R. Trent McCotter, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2020-21); Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia (2017-20)

Beth A. Williams, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2017-20)

Mark Champoux, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2018-20)

Stephen J. Cox, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2017-20); U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2020-21)

Ryan Patrick, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Texas (2018-21)

Gregg N. Sofer, U.S. Attorney, Western District of Texas (2020-21)

Jaime Esparza, U.S. Attorney, Western District of Texas (2022-25)

Damien M. Diggs, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2023-25)

Ryan Newman, Counselor to the U.S. Attorney General (2020); Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2017)

Douglas Rathbun, Counsel (2007-21)

Brian Pandya, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-21)

Eric J. Soskin, Senior Trial Counsel (2006-20); Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (2017-18)

Jennifer B. Dickey, Counsel, Office of Legal Policy (2017-18); Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-20); Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2020-21)

Jeffrey S. Beelaert, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2020-21)

Anthony M. Shults, Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Policy (2019-21); Attorney-Advisor, National Security Division (2017-19, 2021)

Bethany P. Shah, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (2017-19); Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2020-21)

John Coghlan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2020-21)

Benjamin D. Wilson, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2019-21)

Daniel D. Mauler, Trial Attorney, Civil Division (2018-21)

Jordan Cunningham, Trial Attorney (2009-10)

Anthony J. Rodregous, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Texas (2019-23);
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia (2024-25)

Jed Silversmith, Trial Attorney, Tax Division (2006-14)

Jordan L. Von Bokern, Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Policy (2018-20); Trial
Attorney, Federal Programs Branch (2020-22)

Austin Lipari, Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Policy (2019-21)

Prerak Shah, Acting U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas (2021); First Assistant
U.S. Attorney (2020-21); Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2020); and Deputy
Associate Attorney General (2019-20)

Laurel Simmons, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2021-
23)

J. Benjamin Aguiñaga, Chief of Staff, Civil Rights Division (2017-18)

Jessica Barker, Chief of Staff (Acting) and Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Policy
(2019-20)

Laurence E. Rothenberg, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2007-22)

Carl D. Wasserman, Senior Counsel and Trial Attorney