

January 8, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Indira Talwani, Nominee for the
United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), we proudly endorse and urge the prompt confirmation of Indira Talwani to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Talwani possesses the necessary qualities—intellectual capacity, integrity, experience, and judicial temperament—to serve on the federal judiciary with distinction.

NAPABA is a national bar association representing the interests of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. Now in its 25th year, NAPABA represents the interests of over 60 affiliate organizations and over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys. NAPABA is deeply committed to supporting the appointment of qualified Asian Pacific Americans to the federal bench, where Asian Pacific Americans are significantly underrepresented. Of the approximately 875 active Article III judges, only 21 are Asian Pacific American. If the number of Asian Pacific American Article III judges reflected the number of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States, that number would be over 50.

There has never been an Asian Pacific American federal district court judge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Likewise, there has never been an Asian Pacific American federal judge in any of the courts covered by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Ms. Talwani has had a distinguished career in the law. For over 10 years, she has served as a partner with the Boston law firm of Segal Roitman LLP, where she has practiced

employment and labor law. In addition, she also has been an adjunct professor at Northeastern University School of Law. Prior to relocating to Boston, Ms. Talwani was a partner with Altshuler, Berzon LLP in San Francisco. She began her legal career by serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Stanley A. Weigel for the United States District Court of the Northern District of California.

Ms. Talwani has garnered recognition for her work. She has been selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers of America* and *Massachusetts Super Lawyer*. Notably, in 2010, Ms. Talwani was named "Lawyer of the Year" by *Massachusetts Law Weekly*.

In addition to using her legal skills on behalf of her clients, Ms. Talwani has continued to give back to the community through countless pro bono projects. This work typically has been on behalf of disadvantaged individuals or those who are unable to afford legal services. Based on this work, the Chinese Progressive Association presented Ms. Talwani with the Workers Justice Award in 2010.

Ms. Talwani's commitment to public service and equal justice stems in part from her background. Her parents are first-generation immigrants who worked hard to integrate into the fabric of American society. Accordingly, Ms. Talwani grew up with a rich appreciation for the strengths and opportunities offered by this country, along with an awareness of the importance of differing viewpoints and perspectives and how that strengthens our society. Ms. Talwani's interest in becoming a federal judge is a reflection of her strong commitment to serving the country and making sure that our nation continues to serve as an example for all cultures worldwide.

Based on her qualifications, intellect, integrity, and commitment to service, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association proudly supports Ms. Indira Talwani to serve as a District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



William J. Simonitsch
President



Tina Matsuoka
Executive Director