

February 10, 2022

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

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

Re: *Arianna Julia Freeman, Esquire*
Judicial Nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Arianna J. Freeman to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and urge prompt consideration and confirmation of her nomination.

As former federal prosecutors and current white collar defense attorneys who practice in the Third Circuit, we believe that it is crucial to have appellate judges who have had a diversity of experiences, especially on criminal justice issues. Arianna Freeman – whose legal career began with clerkships with two distinguished judges of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and flourished at the highly respected Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania -- will bring such diversity to the Third Circuit.

The following achievements and qualifications make Arianna an outstanding nominee:

- Arianna currently serves as a Managing Attorney with the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she represents indigent defendants in state and federal custody who are seeking post-conviction relief.
- She has worked at the Federal Community Defender Office since 2009, and the bulk of her work is post-conviction litigation in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Third Circuit Court.
- Arianna graduated from Swarthmore College, with honors, in 2001 and from Yale Law School in 2007.
- Her cases arise from both state and federal convictions, and she represents indigent defendants in cases raising a wide variety of challenges, from constitutional challenges to evidentiary issues to sentencing law.
- She understands the courtroom and has appeared frequently in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to examine witnesses at evidentiary hearings or to present oral argument.
- Arianna also has significant appellate experience and has been lead or co-counsel in 28 appeals in the Third Circuit, and she has presented oral argument to the Third Circuit on seven occasions, including once to the *en banc* Court.
- She is a nationally-recognized expert in habeas corpus litigation and frequently provides training and guidance to Federal Public Defender and Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys.

- Because federal post-conviction matters are civil cases, Arianna frequently litigates under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and is knowledgeable about the procedural rules of both civil and criminal cases.
- Before joining the Federal Community Defender Office, Arianna served as a law clerk to Judge James T. Giles (from 2007 to 2008) and Judge C. Darnell Jones II (from 2008 to 2009), both of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- Arianna served as an adjunct professor at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and she serves on the boards of directors of First Person Arts and the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women.

We believe Arianna to be exceptionally well-qualified and well-suited to serve on the Third Circuit. We urge the Judiciary Committee and the full Senate to promptly review and confirm Arianna Freeman for a position on that Court.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions.*

Sincerely,

Michael A. Schwartz
Partner
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP

James M. Becker
Of Counsel
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Ann C. Flannery
Principal
Law Offices of Ann C. Flannery, LLC

Jeremy D. Frey
Senior Counsel
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP

Barry Gross
Senior Counsel
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Peter D. Hardy
Partner
Ballard Spahr LLP

* Please note that all organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.

Robert L. Hickok
Partner
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP

Linda Dale Hoffa
Partner
Dilworth Paxson LLP

John N. Joseph
Partner
Post & Schell, P.C.

Ronald H. Levine
Senior Counsel
Post & Schell, P.C.

Carlos F. Ortiz
Partner
McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Gregory A. Paw
Partner
Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan, LLP

Richard L. Scheff
Partner and Eastern Leader
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP

R. Stephen Stigall
Partner
Ballard Spahr LLP

Sozi Pedro Tulante
Partner
Dechert LLP

Robert E. Welsh
Partner
Welsh & Recker, P.C.

Richard J. Zack
Partner
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP