



February 25, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Letter of Support for Nomination of Jennifer Rearden
to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter on behalf of the Urban Justice Center (“UJC”) and in support of Jennifer Rearden’s nomination to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. UJC is a New York not-for-profit organization that has worked to protect the rights of the vulnerable, organize marginalized communities, and fuel the future of social justice since 1984. UJC works to advocate for a just, fair, and decent society, and mentors the next generation of social justice leaders. We support tens of thousands of people a year through a combination of direct legal and social services, education, and advocacy, addressing critical issues ranging from homelessness, to discrimination, to seeking asylum, to escaping intimate partner violence.

In 2009, certain of UJC’s staff attorneys worked alongside Ms. Rearden’s firm, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, to represent Patricia Francois, a domestic worker who had been illegally underpaid and physically abused by her employer. Together with UJC and Gibson Dunn, Ms. Francois filed suit in the Southern District of New York, alleging claims for assault and battery as well as violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the New York Labor Law. In 2011, Ms. Rearden appeared in the case on behalf of Ms. Francois. Thanks in large part to Ms. Rearden’s efforts, Ms. Francois was able to prevail on multiple discovery motions and survive a summary judgment motion, ensuring that the case could proceed to a seven-day jury trial in June 2012. Ms. Rearden served as lead counsel at the trial, examining witnesses and arguing motions. On June 13, 2012, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Ms. Francois.

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Ms. Rearden's hard work and dedication in protecting the rights of domestic workers demonstrates her belief in seeking justice for all. I have no doubt that Ms. Rearden would serve the public well as a judge in the Southern District of New York, and I respectfully urge the Senate to review Ms. Rearden's nomination and vote to confirm her appointment.

Very truly yours,

Douglas Lasdon

Douglas Lasdon
Executive Director

Signature: *Douglas Lasdon*
Douglas Lasdon (Feb 25, 2022 11:21 EST)

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2022.02.25 Letter from D. Lasdon of UJC - Jennifer Rearden

Final Audit Report

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