



SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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Vincent J. Vallelong
President

March 7, 2024

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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer & Leader McConnell:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our concerns on the nomination of Adeel Abdullah Mangi to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

While Mr. Mangi does not have any prior judicial experience that would recommend him to an appellate court position, he does have a long resume working with organizations that, among other things, glamorize individuals convicted of brutally murdering police officers and distort the truth about the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We therefore strenuously object to his confirmation to a lifetime seat on the federal bench.

Over the years, Mr. Mangi has worked for, with, and contributed to groups that sought to "defund the police," and have celebrated individuals responsible for brutally murdering police officers. While this should be sufficient to disqualify Mr. Mangi from serving on a federal court one step below the U.S. Supreme Court, the SBA takes particular exception to his ostensible support for recharacterizing 9/11 as something other than the deadliest foreign terrorist attack on U.S. soil in our nation's history.

While Mr. Mangi was on the board, the Rutgers Center for Security Race and Rights held an event on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in 2021 featuring speakers with ties to terrorist organizations and which sought to blame the U.S. for the attacks.

Confirming Adeel Mangi gives credence to these false, irresponsible, and dangerous conspiracy theories and amounts to an endorsement of them. SBA members were at the World Trade Center on 9/11. We know what happened. We know that terrorists were responsible, not the United States government. We feel the losses every day. And we continue to watch too many of this nation's first responders succumb to the long-term health effects of 9/11.

The criminal justice system functions best when all parties—law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys—are rational actors who base their decisions on objective facts, follow the rule of law, and are unbiased against any party.

For the men and women of law enforcement this is our expectation every time we put on the uniform to protect and serve our communities. At a time when communities around our nation are struggling to recover from a declining respect for the rule of law that has fueled rising crime and lawlessness in cities across America, it sends the wrong message to appoint someone like Mr. Mangi, who has fed lies and distortions that encourage such despicable and irresponsible behavior.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent Vallelong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

Vincent Vallelong
President