

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

My name is Janice Carter. I write to support the nomination of Nusrat Choudhury for the position of District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York.

I am 44 years old and a veteran of the Air Force, where I served for twelve years as a Public Health Journeyman. I have received an Exemplary Achievement Award from the Air Force Sergeant Association, the Airman of the Month in technical school in 2002, the Mendel Rivers Chapter 306 award, and the Airman of the Quarter award in 2004. I was honorably discharged in November 2013 and currently live in Charleston, South Carolina. One of my children serves in the Navy and currently lives in Japan. Ms. Choudhury was my lawyer during an especially difficult time in my life. Starting in 2013, I worked several jobs, but struggled to find consistent, full-time work. In 2016, I shut down my business due to financial difficulties. Between 2017 and 2018, I worked part time at a restaurant where my employer often distributed my paychecks late and I made less than \$1,000 a month. From April 2018 to July 2019, I worked wherever I could find work. I took part-time jobs in residential cleaning, marketing, babysitting, and hotel laundry. My total income for 2018 was only \$5,360.

On December 7, 2016, I got a speeding ticket in Yemassee, South Carolina as I was driving to visit my son who lived in Florida. During this tumultuous time, I was in the process of shutting down my business, Immaculate Cleaning, and I missed my hearing date. The court suspended my driver's license without my knowledge. I didn't find out my license had been suspended until two years later—when an officer stopped me in Ravenel, South Carolina, because one of my headlights was not working properly. I could not afford to pay the tickets and because my license was suspended, I couldn't take a better paying job.

I tried very hard to pay some of the money that I owed in traffic tickets and reinstatement fees without compromising my housing, basic needs, and payments toward other debts, but the only way to get my drivers license reinstated was to pay the fines in full to the Ravenel Magistrate Court. Without a driver's license, I also struggled to get to my doctor, dentist, and grocery stores. I had to cut out activities that used to be a regular part of my life, like meeting up with a group of women from my church every week. During this time, I felt embarrassed. I was so used to being independent, I felt like a disappointment to

both myself and my family.

Ms.Choudhury helped untangle my drivers license situation and I was a named plaintiff in White v. Shwedo (D.S.C. 2020). I participated in that case because I thought it was unfair for the state to have suspended my drivers license – which I needed to get to and from work – because I had an unpaid traffic ticket.

Ms.Choudhury was my chief counsel and worked with me to contest the DMV's suspension of my driver's license for failure to pay traffic tickets before the South Carolina Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings ("OMVH"). She put together an application for a hearing on my suspension as I did not know how to put together an application by myself. The process was difficult to understand and took a long time. She also submitted for me a written request to the OMVH and a request that the \$200 filing fee be waived because I could not afford to pay the traffic tickets. When the applications were denied she vigorously prosecuted this action on behalf of the many others who were in similar situations as they lacked the money to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars in fines and fees.

In the year that I worked with Ms. Choudhury, I witnessed up close her dedication to helping people like me, and her humility. I saw a lot of integrity and a lot of courage to seek justice and right the so many wrongs that exist in our society. I believe she would be an excellent judge, and someone who understands that ordinary people like me sometimes fall on hard times. I hope you will confirm with her, it is well deserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice R Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "C" at the end.

Janice Carter