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September, 2022

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

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

**Re: Nomination of the Honorable Maria Araujo Kahn to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit**

Dear Senators:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Justice Maria Kahn to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Collectively, we have many decades of experience and the areas of law in which we practice spans a broad spectrum. We have long admired and respected how Justice Kahn has fulfilled her obligations and responsibilities as a lawyer, judge and now a justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. We have worked with her as co-counsel and adversaries when she was a lawyer, as attorneys who appeared before her in court, and as counsellors and advocates who have read the scores of decisions she has issued as a jurist. We have had the opportunity to observe firsthand her integrity, intellect, and excellent judgment. Throughout her career, she has consistently demonstrated herself to be a thoughtful, balanced, and highly ethical lawyer, and now judge, dedicated to the fair and impartial administration of justice. Her experience as a public defender, disability rights advocate, prosecutor, judge, and justice makes her an outstanding candidate for the Second Circuit.

Justice Kahn graduated from Fordham Law School in 1989 and then began her career as a law clerk to United States District Judge Peter C. Dorsey whom she assisted in handling the busy docket of a district court judge. After her clerkship, she worked the next two years as a public defender for the State of Connecticut where she represented criminal defendants too poor to hire counsel themselves. She left that office after two distinguished years and moved to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, investigating and prosecuting claims of discrimination against disabled persons. In 1997, she joined the United States Attorneys' Office for the District of Connecticut, first practicing in the civil division for two years and thereafter in the

criminal division where she served for seven years prosecuting criminals. While there, she tried numerous cases and developed a particular expertise in computer crimes.

In 2006, she was appointed to the Superior Court bench for the State of Connecticut where she served for eleven years, principally on the criminal docket. She was viewed by all who appeared before her to be always prepared, always fair, and always judicious in her rulings. In 2017, she began her career as an appellate court judge, first on the State of Connecticut Appellate Court for a year then as a justice of the Supreme Court for the last five years. Justice Kahn has authored scores of decisions, including concurrences and dissents where she thought it was appropriate. Her courtroom demeanor has always been professional and courteous to counsel and litigants.

Despite the successes she has achieved and the many awards and accolades she has received, Justice Kahn has remained humble. She was born in Angola. Both her parents worked in factories when they came to Connecticut, until they bought a small shoe store that they owned and operated for several years. Their work ethic was instilled in Justice Kahn. Honoring their example, she has worked hard all her life, distinguishing herself among her peers, while never forgetting her modest beginnings or the advantages America provided to her.

Justice Kahn has never rested on her laurels. She spends what free time she may have giving back to the community. She has been an involved member of her temple at Congregation Mishkan Israel since joining in 1997. She is also a frequent volunteer and speaker at organizations devoted to combating racism and discrimination of all types, often lecturing on the dangers of implicit bias. Justice Kahn has also shared her legal knowledge by teaching law school students the complicated and ever-evolving subject of electronic discovery and digital evidence, both at Quinnipiac University School of Law and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

We are confident that Justice Kahn would serve with distinction on the Second Circuit and enthusiastically support her nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

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