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April 22, 2022

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Muslim Advocates, we write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Nusrat J. Choudhury to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York ("EDNY"). Ms. Choudhury is a first-generation attorney who has devoted her career to ensuring that all people—regardless of their income, education, or geographic location—are treated fairly by the legal system.

Muslim Advocates is dedicated to serving justice for all Americans and we take our responsibility as legal advocates for American Muslims and all marginalized communities very seriously. We have filed major litigation to end police surveillance based on racial and religious profiling, to combat online hate, and to provide relief to families separated by the Muslim Ban. We believe that the role of our courts is to ensure equality under the law for all people. From experience, we know that the strength and integrity of our federal courts are crucial to ensuring constitutional protections for everyone in our country.

Ms. Choudhury is eminently qualified and possesses the right temperament to serve on the federal bench. She is currently the Roger Pascal Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. She previously served as the Deputy Director of the ACLU's Racial Justice Program, and as a staff attorney in the ACLU's National Security Project. While at the ACLU, the majority of Ms. Choudhury's litigation was brought on behalf of clients who were being punished for being economically insecure. A graduate of Yale Law School, the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, and Columbia University, she clerked for Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr. of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and for Judge Denise L. Cote of the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Choudhury would bring deep litigation experience to the EDNY. Over the course of her accomplished career, she has litigated more than two dozen complex cases, almost all of them in federal courts throughout the country. She has served as lead counsel in more than a dozen complex cases on issues ranging from government transparency over public records, federal statutes, and rights protected under the First, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. She has engaged in high volume motion practice and discovery, advocated in courtrooms, and taken cases to trial.



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Ms. Choudhury would also be the first Muslim woman and first Bangladeshi American to ever sit on a federal court. New York, where she would sit, is home to one of the largest American Muslim populations and the largest Bangladeshi American population in the country.<sup>1</sup> In over 230 years since our federal court system was established, the Senate has confirmed over 3,000 jurists to sit on the bench, but not one has been a Muslim woman. Her confirmation would add personal and professional diversity to the court, elements that are sorely needed to increase public trust in the judiciary, and to better equip courts to deliver equal justice.<sup>2</sup> She would also serve as an inspiration to younger generations: if future litigants looked up to see “Judge Nusrat Choudhury” on the bench before them, they would tangibly feel the legacy of your historic vote to confirm her.

Ms. Choudhury has a proven record of protecting religious freedom, privacy rights, and other cherished American freedoms. We need judges who will not pick and choose whose rights they care about, but instead put equal justice first. Confirming Ms. Choudhury will move us closer to having courts that better represent all people in America, and reflect this commitment to the American value of equal rights for all. That is how we will protect and advance civil rights and strengthen our democracy.

Ultimately, Ms. Choudhury’s nomination is about protecting all people regardless of their race, religion or background. She has upheld our rights in houses of worship, in detention facilities, and in the public square – ensuring those who are most vulnerable have the representation they deserve. We need judges who value people’s lived experiences and understand how our laws can make a difference for good and for ill. We need judges who understand the barriers to justice that exist in too many communities. That is why we call on the Senate to quickly confirm Nusrat J. Choudhury to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Respectfully,

*Farah Brelvi* 

Farah Brelvi and Asifa Quraishi-Landes  
Interim Co-Executive Directors



Sumayyah Waheed  
Senior Policy Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> “Muslim Population by State 2022.” World Population Review. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/muslim-population-by-state>; “The Bangladeshi Diaspora in the United States.” Migration Policy Institute. July 2014. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/RAD-Bangladesh.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See “Judicial Diversity.” Sherrilyn A. Ifill. Greenbag. [http://www.greenbag.org/v13n1/v13n1\\_ifill.pdf](http://www.greenbag.org/v13n1/v13n1_ifill.pdf).