



1075 Easton Avenue, Suite 11-302 | Somerset, NJ 08873 | NJMLA.com

President

Dalya Youssef

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Vice President

M. Bassam Zohny

Treasurer

Umar A. Sheikh

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Secretary

Adam H. Morsy

Social Media Chair

Faudia A. Hameed
Clemenza

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

**National Association
of Muslim Lawyers
(NAML) designee):**

Chundzom Lopez

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

Law School Liaison

Amani Taha

April 21, 2021

Dear Senators Schumer, McConnell, Durbin, and Grassley,

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Muslim Lawyer's Association (NJMLA). We are a volunteer association of lawyers, judges, and law students who work or reside in the New Jersey area. NJMLA was established in 2006 to advance the goals, needs, and interests of Muslim attorneys in the state through networking, mentorship and education. NJMLA also promotes Muslim participation in public service and addresses issues affecting our local and national community.

We enthusiastically support Judge Zahid N. Quraishi's nomination for a possible Article III judge appointment to the District Court of New Jersey.

Zahid N. Quraishi was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey in the Trenton Vicinage on June 3, 2019. Judge Quraishi is the first Muslim-American to serve on the Federal bench in New Jersey. This past year, Judge Quraishi also

joined the faculty at Rutgers Law School as an adjunct professor, teaching Trial Presentation to second and third year law students.

Prior to his appointment, he was Chair of Riker Danzig's White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Group and his firm's first Chief Diversity Officer. His practice focused on white collar criminal defense, internal corporate investigations, and complex civil litigation.

In private practice, Judge Quraishi had extensive experience representing clients with government enforcement and compliance issues involving potential criminal charges. He regularly managed complex federal and state court litigation on behalf of corporations, and their officers, directors, and employees. Judge Quraishi has represented both companies and individuals in connection with criminal investigations involving violations of securities law, healthcare fraud, money laundering, computer crimes, environmental statutes, public corruption, and tax laws among other white collar areas of law. His practice also extended to representing both corporations and individuals in complex federal and state civil litigation.

As Chief Diversity Officer, Judge Quraishi provided leadership in advancing the firm's diversity and inclusion values, and assumed overall responsibility for overseeing its diversity and inclusion goals.

Before joining Riker, Judge Quraishi served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey for over five years. He tried numerous federal criminal cases involving public corruption, financial fraud, perjury, firearms and narcotics offenses within the Special Prosecutions Division and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and Government Fraud Units of the Criminal Division.

Judge Quraishi's government service and prosecutorial experience extends well beyond his years at the U.S. Attorney's Office. He previously represented the United States as an Assistant Chief Counsel and trial attorney with the Department of Homeland Security. He also served as a military prosecutor and achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Earlier in his career, Judge Quraishi worked as a litigation associate at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, LLP and clerked for the Honorable Edwin H. Stern, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey - Appellate Division (retired).

Judge Quraishi previously served as a trustee of several prominent organizations to include the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey, and the United States Attorney's Office Alumni Association (DNJ).

Judge Quraishi has been recognized in his legal field by Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business as one of the country's leading white collar lawyers, Best Lawyers in America®, a peer review of U.S. lawyers, and "Super Lawyers" by Thomson Reuters. Most recently in 2019, Zahid received APALA-NJ's Professional Achievement Award, SABA-NJ's Standing Ovation Award, and NJMLA's Trailblazer of the Year Award. Additionally, he previously received Rutgers APALSA's alumni award for leadership and service in the profession in 2017. In 2014, shortly after entering private practice at Riker Danzig, he was named a "New Leader of the Bar" by New Jersey Law Journal.

Judge Quraishi received his law degree from Rutgers Law School - Newark where he was the Managing Business Editor of the Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal and a member of the Rutgers Moot Court Board.

Not only is Judge Quraishi a skilled litigator who will bring expertise to the bench, he will also bring much needed diversity of background and perspective to the federal judiciary. We are proud to support his nomination to serve on the Federal judiciary.

Sincerely,

/s/ Faudia A. Hameed Clemenza
Faudia A. Hameed Clemenza
NJMLA JPAC Chair

cc: Dalya Youssef, NJMLA president
Umar Sheikh, JPAC