

**SENATOR SAUD ANWAR**  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Legislative Office Building  
Room 2100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Tel. 860-240-0347  
[www.senatedems.ct.gov/Anwar](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Anwar)



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**  
*Third District*

*Chair*  
Children Committee  
*Vice Chair*  
Housing Committee  
Insurance & Real Estate Committee  
Public Health Committee  
*Member*  
Appropriations Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Planning & Development Committee

July 05, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for the application of Attorney Sarala Nagala for a seat on the Federal District Court.

In my capacity as a Connecticut state Senator, community leader within the American Muslim community, and physician, I have had the good fortune of working closely with Attorney Nagala and seeing her leadership in action as she has served with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut for the past many years.

While working with Attorney Nagala, I have been impressed and appreciative of her efforts to build a better understanding between law enforcement agencies and minority communities in Connecticut. Through her calm, impartial, and professional demeanor, Attorney Nagala worked tirelessly to help rebuild the trust between these communities and their government, which had been eroding for some time as a result of some post 9/11 policies.

While working for the Department of Justice, Attorney Nagala worked on a multitude of important cases and significant office initiatives to this effect. For example, Attorney Nagala was instrumental in the prosecution of the Baitul Aman mosque shooter. This domestic terrorist attack was deeply concerning to the Muslim community in Connecticut and demonstrated how Islamophobia was reaching a boiling point in the United States. As part of this case and beyond, Attorney Nagala organized anti-bullying workshops and spearhead "Protecting Your House of Worship" trainings for synagogues, mosques, and gurdwaras. Through this initiative, Attorney Nagala and her team conducted security assessments of religious facilities and proposed security plans in the event of domestic terrorist attacks like the one that occurred at the Baitul Aman Mosque.

Attorney Nagala also helped organize training sessions at police departments around the state, encouraging cultural competency for law enforcement officers with a focus on educating officers about hate crimes laws and the major facets of Islam and Sikhism. More than 1,200 police officers were trained

through these efforts. I know this firsthand, as I was one of the trainers brought on board to assist with these efforts.

As a physician practicing in the State of Connecticut, I was also deeply impressed by Attorney Nagala service on the U.S. Attorney's Outreach Committee, which organized conferences on opioid overdose deaths – an issue which has affected hundreds of Connecticut families over the years.

I believe that Attorney Nagala draws strength from her life experiences, as well as from her background. Her parents emigrated from India in the late 1970s and took medical residencies in rural North Dakota. Her family settled in Oakes, a town of about 1800 people that was critically underserved in medical care. Her family was the only minority family in the town for quite some time. As such, she grew up with a keen awareness of how it feels to be considered "different." In my view, this understanding and awareness if crucially needed on the federal judiciary.

Her stellar record while working at the US Attorney office should be yet another testimony to her capacity, depth and breadth of experience and commitment. She served as Hate Crimes Coordinator and Human Trafficking Coordinator. She saved lives via sex trafficking trials. Atty. Nagala has also served as the Outreach Committee Chairperson. She has tried five cases to guilty verdicts including wire fraud phishing scheme, child sex trafficking, and narcotics cases.

In the strongest terms possible, I recommend Attorney Nagala's to be confirmed to the federal judiciary. I know that Attorney Nagala has a deep sense of respect for what our judicial officers do to advance the equal administration of justice. I also feel that diversity of experience and background is especially important on the federal bench, and I believe she would be an ideal person to serve our state and nation this way.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saud Anwar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Senator Saud Anwar