

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

We write in support of the confirmation of Arianna J. Freeman, who was nominated by President Joe Biden to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on January 19, 2022. Her depth and diversity of experience, wide-ranging knowledge of the federal courts, and strong educational background make her unusually qualified to fill this very important position as a member of the federal judiciary. While the federal bench has long had former prosecutors, it is sorely lacking in a viewpoint from the other side of the aisle; and as the rest of this letter enumerates, Ms. Freeman, with her wealth of experience representing indigent defendants, brings a much-needed perspective to our federal judiciary. Her clerkships for two highly-regarded federal judges, followed by her hands-on litigation experience in both civil and criminal proceedings, make her an asset on the Third Circuit. We strongly encourage the Senate to confirm her and add her valuable viewpoint to our outstanding bench.

Ms. Freeman graduated with honors from Swarthmore College, and then obtained her law degree from Yale Law School. After her two clerkships in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania she began her work as an attorney with the Federal Community Defender Office where she gained considerable practical experience we believe greatly behooves her nomination. Because federal post-conviction matters are civil cases, she has frequently litigated under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and is knowledgeable about the procedural rules of both civil and criminal cases.

One cannot help but read the above qualifications and conclude that Ms. Freeman is eminently credentialed to be a judge on the esteemed Third Circuit. We think it equally important that a lawyer who has spent years representing indigent defendants bring that perspective to our federal bench. Diversity of thought and experience ensures that our judiciary will remain vibrant; and various points of view are necessary to maintain our justice system as the best in the world. We commend President Biden on this nomination, and we strongly support her confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

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