

January 26, 2024

VIA EMAIL

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: *Letter in Support of Mr. Adeel Mangi for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit*

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the National Women’s Law Center (the “Law Center”), I write to express support for the confirmation of Mr. Adeel Mangi to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The Law Center fights for gender justice – in the courts, in public policy, and in society – working across the issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. The Law Center uses the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes society and to break down the barriers that harm women and girls – especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination, including women of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income women and families. For over 50 years, the Law Center has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women. We urge the Senate to grant him respectful consideration and the swift confirmation he deserves.

Mr. Mangi’s exceptional legal expertise and commitment to equal justice for all make him an excellent candidate for the Third Circuit. Mr. Mangi has spent over two decades at his current firm Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, where he has served as partner since 2010.¹ He joined the firm as an associate in 2000 and was promoted to counsel in 2009.² Throughout Mr. Mangi’s career he’s maintained a diverse state and federal litigation practice in complex commercial actions, intellectual property, class action, appellate and an extensive pro bono practice focused on civil rights.³ He has received numerous awards for his trial and litigation experience, including being named to Benchmark Litigation’s 2024 and 2023 “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” lists and a 2023 National Law Journal’s General Litigation Trailblazer.⁴ Mr. Mangi began his legal studies in the United Kingdom earning two degrees before moving to the United States to earn his LLM. In 1998, he earned his First Class Degree in Law from the University of Pembroke College and went on to earn his Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Skills from the City University London Inns of Court School of Law in 1999.⁵ In 2000, he earned his LLM from Harvard Law School and received the prestigious Kennedy Memorial Scholarship for British post-graduate students to immerse themselves in American culture and deepen their

¹ Patterson Belknap, “Adeel Mangi,” accessed Jan. 18, 2024, <https://www.pbwt.com/adeel-a-mangi>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*; Benchmark Litigation, “The 2023 list of Benchmark’s Top 100 Trial Lawyers is live!,” Oct. 4, 2022, <https://benchmarklitigation.com/NewsAndAnalysis/The-2023-list-of-Benchmarks-Top-100-Trial-Lawyers-is-live/Index/8644>;

⁵ *Id.*

expertise.⁶ Mr. Mangi's impressive credentials and extensive litigation experience will make him a strong addition to the federal bench.

Through Mr. Mangi's pro bono practice and as a leader in the legal community, he is deeply involved in protecting and advancing civil rights. In 2011 as a governing board member of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, he led their endorsement of marriage equality legislation. Notably, it was the only religious affiliated bar association to have endorsed it at the time.⁷ Mr. Mangi represented a group of Muslim professional associations and advocacy organizations to file an amicus brief in the landmark Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, which held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects employees from discrimination because of their LGBTQ identity.⁸ In the brief, Mangi refuted the concept of employers using religious beliefs as a justification to discriminate and argued that a broad interpretation of Title VII would benefit all protected groups.⁹ In addition to his legal advocacy, Mr. Mangi served multiple terms as an ally board member for the National LGBTQ Bar Association.¹⁰ Mr. Mangi's deep commitment to advancing civil rights for the LGBTQ community and equal justice for all is much needed on the federal bench and will be a great asset to the Third Circuit.

In addition to his first-rate legal background and experience, Adeel Mangi's lived experience would bring important demographic diversity to the federal bench. If confirmed, Mr. Mangi would be the first Muslim American to ever serve on the federal appellate bench. Even though Muslim Americans make up nearly 3.5 million of the U.S. population,¹¹ it was only two years ago when the first Muslim American was confirmed to a lifetime appointment on the federal bench.¹² Mr. Mangi would become just the third Muslim federal judge confirmed.¹³ Mr. Mangi's addition to the Third Circuit would bring our federal courts a step closer to more accurately reflecting the rich diversity of the United States.

⁶ *Id.* See Kennedy Memorial Trust, "Kennedy Scholars," accessed Jan. 18, 2024, <https://www.kennedytrust.org.uk/display.aspx?id=1848&pid=283>; Kennedy Memorial Trust, "Full List of Kennedy Scholars," accessed Jan. 18, 2024, <https://www.kennedytrust.org.uk/display.aspx?id=1858&pid=0&tabId=230>.

⁷ The LGBTQ Bar, "To be an Ally and Why it Matters," June 18, 2017, <https://lgbtqbar.org/bar-news/how-to-be-an-ally-and-why-it-matters/>; LinkedIn, "Muslim Bar Association of New York," https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mubany_congratulations-to-adeel-mangi-for-his-nomination-activity-7130708600754204672-hMPU/.

⁸ 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020).

⁹ Patterson Belknap "Firm's Amicus Briefs "On the Right Side of History" in Landmark LGBTQ Supreme Court Decision," June 17, 2020, <https://www.pbwt.com/news/firms-amicus-briefs-on-the-right-side-of-history-in-landmark-lgbtq-supreme-court-decision>.

¹⁰ Patterson Belknap, "Adeel Mangi," <https://www.pbwt.com/adeel-a-mangi>.

¹¹ Pew Research Center, "New estimates show U.S. Muslim population continues to grow," January 3, 2018, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/01/03/new-estimates-show-u-s-muslim-population-continues-to-grow/>.

¹² Daniel Wiessner, "Senate confirms first federal Muslim judge in U.S. history," Reuters, June 10, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/senate-confirms-first-federal-muslim-judge-us-history-2021-06-10/>.

¹³ Pew Research Center, "New estimates show U.S. Muslim population continues to grow," January 3, 2018, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/01/03/new-estimates-show-u-s-muslim-population-continues-to-grow/>.

Adeel Mangi is an exceptional jurist deeply committed to equal justice for all and will make a tremendous addition to the federal appellate bench. His keen legal aptitude, impartiality, and even temperament were especially evident during his confirmation hearing, as he answered each Senator's questions directly and thoughtfully.¹⁴ As such, the Law Center offers its support for the nomination of Adeel Mangi to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and urges the Senate to swiftly confirm him. Please feel free to contact me, or Erinn D. Martin, Director of Nominations & Cross-Cutting Policies, at erinmartin@nwlc.org, should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fatima Goss Graves
President and CEO

¹⁴ U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, "Nominations," Dec. 13, 2023, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/12/13/2023/nominations>.