



National Council of Jewish Women

March 5, 2024

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Committee Members:

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) strongly supports the confirmation of Amir Ali to the US District Court for the District of Columbia. An acclaimed civil rights attorney and committed public and community servant, Mr. Ali currently serves as President and Executive Director of the MacArthur Justice Center where he is known for building coalitions and bringing people together, bridging divides. He has successfully argued multiple landmark cases before the Supreme Court and has been called upon to testify before Congress as an expert on federal procedure and habeas law.

From the beginning of his legal career as an attorney at Jenner & Block LLP, Mr. Ali has dedicated his work to protecting the rights of all people, regardless of race, religion, or background. After leaving private practice, Mr. Ali has continued to represent historically marginalized communities and indigent clients, including in cases that set Supreme Court precedents that expand the Constitutional right to counsel, habeas corpus, and the reach of civil rights laws. As head of the MacArthur Justice Center, he led litigation on several important religious liberty cases, involving incarcerated individuals who were denied access to the Bible, worship materials, religious texts, and prayer. His exemplary service has been recognized by the NAACP and the ACRL's Justice Tribute Award as well as the American Bar Association's Exceptional Service Award on behalf of intellectually disabled people, Bloomberg Law's Inaugural Pro Bono Innovators Award, and the Albert E. Jenner Pro Bono Award for providing exceptional legal services to the needy. Along with his impressive legal skills, Mr. Ali brings a compelling background.

He is the son of Egyptian immigrant parents who came to North America to provide greater opportunities for their children, instilling within them a strong work ethic. As a resident of the District of Columbia where his children attend public school, Mr. Ali is active in the community, serving on the board of the Mosaic Theater Company and playing a leading role in the H Street Oral History Project, a program in partnership with the DC Public Library. A Muslim, Mr. Ali has hosted events at the Jewish Community Center on the intersection of the arts and justice and has worked to ensure the religious liberty of all regardless of religion, race, or background.

In Jewish law, the work of pursuing justice hinges on having a fair and independent judiciary. Amir Ali's confirmation to a lifetime seat on the federal bench would further this imperative given his outstanding legal skills and experience and career-long record working for equal justice.

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NCJW strongly supports Amir Ali's confirmation to the District Court of DC and urges swift Senate action.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jody Rabhan', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women