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March 27, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission  
515 5th Street, NW, Suite 235  
Washington, DC 20001  
[jnc@dc.gov](mailto:jnc@dc.gov)

**Re: Endorsement of Loren AliKhan for Vacancy on District of Columbia Court of Appeals**

Dear Commission Members:

On behalf of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (SABA-DC), I write to express our unequivocal support for Loren AliKhan's potential appointment to fill one of the current vacancies on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SABA-DC is a voluntary bar association dedicated to the needs, concerns, and interests of the South Asian American legal community in the Washington, D.C. area. The organization reaches approximately 1,000 attorneys and jurists of South Asian origin in the D.C. metropolitan area. SABA-DC's key objectives are to advance the professional development of South Asian American lawyers, increase awareness and dialogue regarding legal issues concerning South Asian Americans, and improve access to legal services for the South Asian American community. In making our endorsements, we consider a candidate's experience, past accomplishments, demonstrated interest in or commitment to the South Asian community, and broader efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession.

Based on her extensive personal and professional accomplishments, SABA-DC strongly believes that Ms. AliKhan is immensely qualified to join the bench of the D.C. Court of Appeals. As Solicitor General for the District of Columbia and, before that, Deputy Solicitor General for Civil and Administrative Appeals, she has worked on over 1,000 cases in the D.C. Court of Appeals covering the wide range of matters within the Court's jurisdiction. Before Ms. AliKhan joined the Office of the Attorney General, she spent several years in private practice focused on appellate matters and supported several notable pro bono matters, including Supreme Court cases on behalf of indigent criminal defendants and amicus curiae briefs on behalf of organizations supporting minority communities. Prior to joining private practice, Ms. AliKhan



clerked for the Hon. Louis H. Pollak on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Hon. Thomas L. Ambro on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Ms. AliKhan will naturally bring her comprehensive skillset to the bench—including her uniquely extensive experience with the D.C. Court of Appeals, specifically—allowing her to hit the ground running with a fast-pace, high-volume docket.

In addition to Ms. AliKhan's impeccable professional qualifications, we note that her appointment to this position would enhance the diversity of the D.C. Court of Appeals bench. As a first-generation South Asian American—the daughter of immigrants from Pakistan—Ms. AliKhan would be the first Asian American on the D.C. Court of Appeals bench. As the first lawyer in her family, she is familiar with the trailblazing immigrant experience of so many litigants that appear before the D.C. Court of Appeals. In fact, SABA-DC recognized Ms. AliKhan as its Public Sector Trailblazer in 2019 for her sustained excellence and accomplishments which inspire our members and South Asian lawyers throughout the United States. Bringing her unique perspective as a South Asian woman to the bench, we are confident that Ms. AliKhan will readily contribute to the Court's goal of increased access to justice.

Based on the information highlighted in this letter, combined with the extensive materials you have received regarding her qualifications, SABA-DC believes that Ms. AliKhan is an exceptional candidate for the vacancy on the D.C. Court of Appeals bench. We enthusiastically support her for this position and respectfully request that you extend her every possible consideration for inclusion in the group of nominations sent to the President for consideration.

Sincerely,

Amisha R. Patel  
President, SABA-DC

cc: Amandeep S. Sidhu, Chair of SABA-DC Endorsements Committee  
Priya L. Bhanu, President-Elect, SABA-DC