



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 130 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Nancy Abudu to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

One of our nation's leading appellate civil rights attorneys, Ms. Abudu has spent her career defending our democracy and protecting the constitutional rights of Americans, no matter their race, religion, or political affiliation. After serving as a Staff Attorney with the Eleventh Circuit, Ms. Abudu has practiced in every state in the Circuit: at the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, in Atlanta, Georgia, the ACLU of Florida, in Miami, Florida, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, in Montgomery, Alabama. With extensive experience practicing before numerous circuit courts of appeal and the U.S. Supreme Court, Ms. Abudu is eminently qualified to serve on the Eleventh Circuit.

The daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, Nancy Abudu would be the first woman of color, and Black woman, to sit on the Eleventh Circuit, and the first person of color to serve on the Circuit from Georgia. The Eleventh Circuit, which includes Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, is approximately 45 percent people of color. Women of color comprise approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population. Ms. Abudu's confirmation will ensure that the Circuit better reflects the people it serves.

Ms. Abudu has dedicated much of her career to safeguarding the fundamental right to vote, representing those who have been historically excluded from the ballot box regardless of political party. When people with disabilities, like Steve Kirk, a quadriplegic veteran, [faced](#) barriers to voting during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Abudu filed suit to ensure that Mr. Kirk and others with disabilities could exercise their fundamental right in a global pandemic. When people convicted of felonies who served their time in prison and met the legal requirements to vote were denied access to the polls, Ms. Abudu filed suit and negotiated a settlement so that they could exercise their rights.

In addition to her voting rights expertise, Ms. Abudu has litigated a broad range of our most pressing civil rights issues, including free speech, religious liberty, healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights, and criminal justice. She has

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worked to protect the free exercise of religion, winning settlements for those [denied](#) the religious accommodations afforded to them by the First Amendment. She has [represented](#) same-sex couples in the long fight for marriage equality that culminated in the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. She has protected the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, [representing](#) an individual on death row before the Supreme Court and winning 8-1. The breadth of her complex civil rights litigation experience, including successful advocacy at the highest court in the land, would make her an excellent appellate judge.

Given her exceptional qualifications, the Senate should expeditiously confirm Ms. Abudu to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rakim Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "B".

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice