



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

August 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing 148 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to support the confirmation of Cindy K. Chung to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The current U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Ms. Chung has distinguished herself as an equal justice champion over nearly 20 years in public service. Throughout her time as a prosecutor, Ms. Chung has developed an expertise in civil rights prosecutions such as hate crimes, spearheading the first Shepherd-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention prosecution in the country. Ms. Chung's extensive federal criminal law experience and clear commitment to human dignity make her an excellent nominee for the Third Circuit.

Ms. Chung has dedicated her career to serving the public. After graduating from Columbia Law School, she began her career clerking for Judge Myron Thompson on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. She then joined the New York County District Attorney's Office before becoming a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section. Since 2014, Ms. Chung has worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney for seven years, she held numerous positions including Domestic Violence Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator. In 2021, she was sworn in as the 59th U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. As the top federal law enforcement officer in western Pennsylvania, Ms. Chung currently manages an office of over 100 employees conducting civil and criminal work across 25 counties.

Ms. Chung has spent much of her career prosecuting hate crimes, human trafficking, and police misconduct, ensuring that victims have a voice and those who perpetrate violence against them are brought to justice. For example, while working for the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, she prosecuted the first ever Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act case, [*United States v. Maybee*](#). The case involved two men who ran a car carrying five Latino men off the road while yelling racial slurs, causing the car to crash, ignite, and injure the passengers. With Ms. Chung representing the U.S. government in the prosecution, the jury convicted the two men and ensured that they were held accountable for their crimes. In [*United States v. Barnwell*](#), Ms. Chung prosecuted four white supremacists who firebombed the home of an interracial Arkansas couple. The leader of the attack, the head of the "combat division" of a white supremacist group, threw multiple Molotov cocktails in the couple's home during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

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Ultimately, all defendants pled guilty to the attack and were sentenced to time in prison. In the most horrific circumstances, Ms. Chung has consistently ensured that the people who attempt to deprive others of their civil and human rights are held accountable.

In recognition of her public service, Ms. Chung has received numerous awards including the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and the Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award. Outside of the courtroom, she serves as Vice-Chair of the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee and Chair of the U.S. Department of Justice Juvenile Violence Working Group. Ms. Chung has also devoted significant time to mentoring the next generation of lawyers, volunteering with the Allegheny County Mock Trial and teaching a course on federal hate crimes at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

A trailblazer throughout her career, Ms. Chung currently serves as the first Senate-confirmed Asian American U.S. Attorney in Pennsylvania. Her nomination to the Third Circuit is equally historic, as she would be the first Asian American judge to serve on this court. She would also be joining a court that currently has just two women out of the thirteen total active judges. Ms. Chung's confirmation would bring critical demographic diversity to an appellate bench that does not presently reflect the diversity of our nation.

Given her exemplary qualifications, the Senate should expeditiously confirm Cindy K. Chung to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Rakim H.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice