



December 11, 2023

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

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

On behalf of our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, People For the American Way enthusiastically supports the nomination of Adeel Mangi to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He has a demonstrated record of commitment to the legal rights and dignity of all people. He will also help diversify the federal bench by becoming the nation's first Muslim federal appellate court judge.

Adeel Mangi was born in Karachi, Pakistan, in 1977. He studied in England and received a law degree from Oxford in 1998. He soon moved to the United States, where he received an LLM degree from Harvard in 2000. He chose to stay in the U.S. and became a citizen. Since graduating Harvard, he has spent his career at the firm of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, becoming a partner in 2010. At the firm, he has represented business clients while maintaining a robust pro bono practice that has protected people's civil rights.

Mangi is a respected civil litigator in complex commercial litigation in both federal and state courts, representing major corporations in a variety of industries. His areas of expertise include commercial joint venture agreements, false advertising, trade secrets, antitrust, and consumer lawsuits. His skills as a litigator have been widely recognized by his peers and have benefited his clients. For instance, his able representation of software company Appian garnered headlines when he won a \$2 billion verdict against a competitor that had unlawfully used its trade secrets.<sup>i</sup> This is the largest jury verdict in the history of the Virginia court system.<sup>ii</sup>

On a pro bono basis, he represented Muslim groups in the New Jersey towns of Bayonne and Basking Ridge who were unlawfully denied local permits to build a mosque. Faced with unlawful discrimination, the Muslim communities turned to Mangi. With the assistance of Mangi and his firm, they sued the towns for violating the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), as well as the United States Constitution. In both cases, the towns settled and allowed the mosques to be built.<sup>iii</sup>

Mangi explained the importance of vindicating his clients' rights:

[These cases] go to our national identity, they go to our national character, and they go to the protection of our most cherished and fundamental constitutional values.<sup>iv</sup>

In another pro bono case, Mangi represented the sister and estate of Karl Taylor, a mentally ill individual serving time in a New York prison. Taylor died in custody after a fight with guards who had ordered him to clean his cell. Mangi led the litigation team in a lawsuit against the state and prison officials. Although prison officials insisted Taylor had died of a heart attack, Mangi presented testimony at trial that guards had attacked Taylor while he was handcuffed. He also presented evidence that Taylor had died as a result of being choked to death. Shortly before closing arguments to the jury, the state settled the case for \$5 million. <sup>v</sup>

The settlement Mangi obtained helped bring justice to Taylor’s family. In addition, it may also help protect inmates from abusive violence by prison guards in the future. As part of the settlement, the state agreed to install video cameras and microphones throughout the prison where the fight occurred. Had such precautions been present for Taylor, things might have been different for him. Taylor’s sister hopes those cameras “can save someone else’s life.”<sup>vi</sup>

After the settlement, Mangi stressed the importance of holding corrections officers accountable to the rule of law:

A justice system that allows horrific retaliation by officers against mentally ill prisoners without any criminal accountability shames everyone associated with it.<sup>vii</sup>

Mangi has also advocated for LGBTQ+ equality. He is an ally (non-LGBTQ) member of the National LGBT Bar Foundation, serving on its board of directors from 2021-2023. He understands that when one group’s freedom is limited, everyone’s freedom is limited. In 2017, he stated:

I’m a Muslim. In my view, the Muslim and LGBT communities are natural allies ... Many in our community are strong supporters of LGBT rights. For example, the Muslim Bar Association of New York was the only religious bar association to endorse marriage equality legislation in New York all the way back in 2011.”<sup>viii</sup>

Mangi also submitted an amicus brief on behalf of a diverse cross section of religious entities in the Supreme Court case of *Tanzin v. Tanvir*. He argued that interpreting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act not to have a damages remedy would prevent the landmark civil rights law from achieving its purpose. In the brief on behalf of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other religious entities, he wrote:

[Parties to the brief] have a unique appreciation of the dangers posed to disfavored religious groups by an overbearing executive. This danger has been ever-present throughout American history, even as the identities of the disfavored religious groups have changed over time.<sup>ix</sup>

The Third Circuit will benefit greatly from Adeel Mangi’s brilliance and his experience. He will make an excellent addition to the court, and we urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,



Marge Baker  
Executive Vice President

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<sup>i</sup> *Appian Corporation v. Pegasystems, Inc.*, No. 2020-07216 (Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia), appeal filed, No. 1399-22-4.

<sup>ii</sup> “McLean-based Appian wins \$2B verdict in trade secrets lawsuit,” *Virginia Business*, May 10, 2022, <https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/mclean-based-appian-wins-2b-verdict-in-trade-secrets-lawsuit>.

<sup>iii</sup> *Bayonne et al.*, No. 2:17-cv-03731 (D.N.J.), Judge Madeline Cox Arleo; *The Islamic Society of Basking Ridge et al. v. Township of Bernards et al.*, No. 3: 16-cv-1369 (D.N.J.), aff’d, 681 F. App’x 110 (3d Cir. 2017), Judge Michael Shipp.

<sup>iv</sup> “‘We’re going to stand up for ourselves’: Why this lawyer sued two towns that denied mosques,” NBC News (Mar. 12, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/we-re-going-stand-ourselves-why-lawyer-sued-two-towns-n854096>.

<sup>v</sup> *Ramsay-Nobles et al. v. Keyser et al.*, No. 1 :16-cv-05778 (S.D.N.Y.).

<sup>vi</sup> “Karl Taylor Died in a New York Prison. Now the State Has Agreed to Pay Millions,” The Marshall Project (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/02/28/karl-taylor-died-in-a-new-york-prison-now-the-state-has-agreed-to-pay-millions>.

<sup>vii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>viii</sup> “How to Be an Ally and Why It Matters,” National LGBT Bar Association, *LGBT Bar News*, July 18, 2017, <https://lgbtqbar.org/bar-news/how-to-be-an-ally-and-why-it-matters>.

<sup>ix</sup> Brief of Amici Curiae 67 Religious Organizations in Support of Respondents, *Tanzin v. Tanvir*, Sup. Ct. Docket No. 19-71, p. 3, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-71/132904/20200212193109569\\_19-71\\_FNU\\_v\\_Tanvir\\_Brief\\_of\\_Amici\\_Curiae\\_in\\_Support\\_of\\_Respondents.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-71/132904/20200212193109569_19-71_FNU_v_Tanvir_Brief_of_Amici_Curiae_in_Support_of_Respondents.pdf).