

April 18, 2017

Senator Charles Grassley  
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Letter of Support for the Nomination of Judge Amul R. Thapar  
to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) extend its strong support for Judge Amul R. Thapar's nomination to serve as a U.S. Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Thapar has the experience, intellectual capacity, integrity, and judicial temperament to serve as an excellent circuit court judge.

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 50,000 attorneys and over 75 national, state, and local bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal services and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA engages in legislative and policy advocacy, promotes Asian Pacific American political leadership and political appointments, and builds coalitions within the legal profession and the community at large. NAPABA also serves as a resource for government agencies, members of Congress, and public service organizations about Asian Pacific Americans in the legal profession, civil rights, and diversity in the courts.

Judge Thapar's nomination is especially important to NAPABA. Out of the approximately 175 active federal appellate court judges, there are currently only four who are Asian Pacific American. If the number of Asian Pacific American federal appellate court judges approximated the percentage of Asian Pacific American residents nationwide, then there would be 11-12 Asian Pacific American federal appellate court judges.

In 2007 NAPABA strongly supported President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge Thapar to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Upon confirmation. Judge

Thapar became the first South Asian American Article III judge in the history of the US. Since then, he has shown his thoughtfulness, fairness, and understanding of his role as a judge. Prior to serving on the federal bench, Judge Thapar served as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky and an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Throughout his career in public service, Judge Thapar has shown an unwavering dedication to the law.

Prior to his service on the bench, Judge Thapar was the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky and an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He began his legal career in private practice following clerkships with Judge S. Arthur Speigel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio and Judge Nathaniel R. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a graduate of Boston College and the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.

Judge Thapar served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (1999-2000), where he was Chair of the Controlled Substances and Asset Forfeiture Subcommittee and served on the Terrorism and National Security Subcommittee, Violent Crime Subcommittee, and Child Exploitation Working Group. He was an adjunct professor in the University of Cincinnati College of Law from 1995 to 1997 and from 2002 to 2006.

Judge Thapar is a 2015 recipient of the NAPABA Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award. He served as the keynote speaker at the 2007 NAPABA Convention and received the NAPABA Best Under 40 Award.

If confirmed, Judge Thapar would be the second ever South Asian American judge to serve on a federal appeals court and the fifth active Asian Pacific American federal appellate Article III judge. The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association proudly supports his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Matsuoka', written in a cursive style.

Tina Matsuoka  
Executive Director