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January 15, 2021

Judicial Nomination Commission
515 5th Street, NW, Suite 235
Washington, DC 20001
jnc@dc.gov

**Re: Endorsement of The Honorable Errol Rajesh Arthur, Magistrate
Judge, for Vacancy on District of Columbia Superior Court**

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 the potential appointment of The Honorable Errol Rajesh Arthur, Magistrate Judge, to fill the current Associate Judge vacancy on the District of Columbia Superior Court. As a native Washingtonian with over a decade of experience on the bench, Judge Arthur is ready to hit the ground running and bring his unique perspective and unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion to the Court.

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 his extensive personal and professional accomplishments, SABA-DC strongly believes that Judge Arthur is immensely qualified to be elevated to the D.C. Superior Court as an Associate Judge. His work as the Presiding Magistrate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court, in private practice representing individuals in the D.C. Superior Court and Maryland's Circuit and District courts, and as a



Public Defender at the D.C. Public Defender Service have provided him with the depth and quality of experience necessary for the D.C. Superior Court bench.

Through his current role as the Presiding Magistrate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court—and before that as the Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge—Judge Arthur is no stranger to this bench. He has efficiently and effectively managed his courtroom since 2010 and presided over cases in all divisions of this court. Throughout his time on the bench, he has served on numerous court committees and working groups in furtherance of the goal to improve the efficacy of the court, improve the community’s access to the courts, and increase diversity on the bench. With a career dedicated to public service and *pro bono* activities in the District, we are confident that Judge Arthur will continue to contribute to the Court’s goal of increased access to justice.

Judge Arthur’s experience and contributions to the District go beyond the judiciary. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Arthur was appointed by Mayor Adrian Fenty as the Chairman of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics where he provided oversight of the District’s Board of Elections, assisted in the administration of elections, and facilitated enforcement of election and campaign finance laws.

Judge Arthur is also deeply committed to *pro bono* work and currently serves as a presiding judge in the Truancy Court Diversion Program and meets weekly with families and students to help confront and develop plans to improve the underlying issues that cause repeated unexcused absences. Additionally, Judge Arthur has a longstanding commitment to legal education and mentorship—he serves as a visiting faculty member of Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop, is currently mentoring a freshman at Hampton University, and has served on the executive board of the Washington Bar Association’s Judicial Counsel, where he chaired its annual internship program in an effort to ensure diversity in the next generation of attorneys and jurists.

In addition to Judge Arthur’s impeccable professional qualifications, we note that his appointment to this position would enhance the diversity of the D.C. Superior Court bench. As the son of Indo-Guyanese immigrants who moved to the United States to attend college and build their lives in the District, Judge Arthur brings a unique perspective to the bench. In a city full of immigrants like the District, we can think of no more important perspective to the Court to increase access and acceptability of justice.



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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amandeep S. Sidhu', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Amandeep S. Sidhu
Chairman, SABA-DC Endorsements Committee

cc: Priya Bhanu, President, SABA-DC
Nandu Machiraju, President-Elect, SABA-DC