



October 4, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Lucy Koh to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) strongly urges you to confirm Judge Lucy Koh as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are excited by Judge Koh's historic nomination to the Circuit Court.

As the only national organization dedicated to building power with American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women and girls, NAPAWF gives voice to issues central to AAPI women and girls and is actively engaged in all matters of the federal courts by leading advocacy efforts among reproductive justice organization through an intersectional gender and race angle. We are thrilled that if confirmed, Judge Koh will bring her exceptional experience and much-needed diversity to the federal circuit court.

The Ninth Circuit is comprised of states like Oregon, Guam, Hawaii, Washington, and California, home to millions of AAPIs. Currently, there are only 10 Asian American judges at the Circuit level and 29 at the district court level. If confirmed, she'd be the first Korean American woman judge at the appellate level, the second Asian American woman to serve on the Ninth Circuit from California, and one of a handful of Asian American women judges on the federal bench.



Deep Civil and Criminal Legal Experience

Judge Koh is immensely qualified for the Ninth Circuit, having practiced at various levels and in both public and private sectors.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, she first served in the Senate Judiciary Committee as a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow, then as an attorney with the United States Department of Justice, including as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Office of the Attorney for the Central District of California. After her time in public service, she joined the private sector where she litigated business and intellectual property issues.

Exemplary Judicial Record

Judge Koh was first appointed to Santa Clara County Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California. In 2010, her nomination to the Northern District of California was confirmed with the overwhelming support of 90-0.¹ Judge Koh's wide-ranging experience in criminal and civil litigation gives her substantive expertise and skills that will lend to her judicial decision-making.

Judge Koh's ability to wade into new legal matters and handle the breadth of issues that will appear before her is demonstrated through her judicial record that spans more than a decade. As state and federal judge, she ruled in both criminal and civil law matters, including cutting-edge technology law, employment, and contemporary constitutional matters. Given her exemplary career and record, we are confident Judge Koh will continue to skillfully grapple with groundbreaking and crucial issues of our time.

Ninth Circuit Will be Enriched by Judge Koh on the Bench

Judge Koh's invaluable experience and identity as an Asian American woman adds much needed diversity to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. NAPAWF offers its support and respectfully asks the Senate to swiftly confirm Lucy Koh. If you have any questions or would like to speak further with us, please contact Da Hae Kim, Legal Advocacy and Judicial Strategy Manager at dkim@napawf.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sung Yeon Choimorrow
Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/111th-congress/1363>