



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Via Email**

Dear Senators Schumer and McConnell:

We are writing to call your attention to the large number of judicial vacancies at the District of Columbia courts and ask that you act expeditiously to fill them. As of today, there are twelve open seats on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and—with yesterday’s confirmation of Judge Loren AliKhan to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia—two on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. These vacancies represent roughly *one quarter* of all seats on our courts. This number will only grow as more judges are expected to retire.

There are eight nominees currently pending in the Senate to fill existing DC judicial vacancies. It is vital that you move quickly to confirm these nominees. Understaffing in the courts has had significant impacts on our judicial system, including delays in the administration of justice and an overburdening of our judges with untenable caseloads. Given the interest Congress has shown recently in the District’s public safety challenges, filling these vacancies should be a high priority and are a key to our strategy for our shared goal of improving public safety.

All of the pending nominees are well qualified and have been vetted and approved by the independent DC Judicial Nomination Commission and the Biden Administration. Seven of them have also been approved by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. We urge you to schedule votes for all of these nominees before the end of the current Senate session.

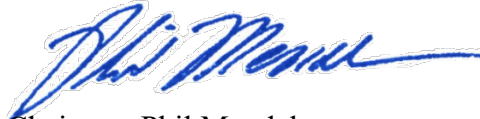
Finally, while Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Peters and some of his predecessors have made moving DC judges a priority, we stand ready to work with the Senate to find a more expeditious way to process DC judicial nominations. Ensuring these local judges can be examined and confirmed quickly will help ensure the District of Columbia courts can administer justice efficiently and effectively and will aid in recruiting the best candidates possible.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2  
Council of the District of Columbia



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Council of the District of Columbia



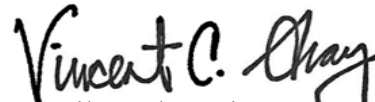
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Matthew Frumin, Ward 3  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Vincent Gray, Ward 7  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Christina Henderson, At-Large  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Zachary Parker, Ward 5  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Robert White, Jr., At-Large  
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8  
Council of the District of Columbia

cc: Senator Gary Peters, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
Senator Rand Paul, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs