

June 8, 2021

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

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

On behalf of the 180,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I write to express our support for the nomination of Eunice C. Lee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. For over 20 years, NCJW has advocated for judicial nominees who are fair, independent, qualified, and reflect the communities they serve, and Lee meets our criteria.

Eunice C. Lee has spent over 20 years as a public defender in New York City representing more than 380 clients with the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York City in both federal and state appellate courts, focusing on post-conviction relief. If confirmed, not only would she be the only judge on the Second Circuit with experience as a public defender, she would also be the second Black woman to ever serve on the Second Circuit.

Lee has spent her career ensuring her clients' constitutional and statutory rights are protected throughout the criminal process, including experience in federal habeas proceedings, a type of case frequently heard by the circuit courts that determines if an incarcerated person's sentencing is lawful. It is critical that judges on the court of appeals have a thorough understanding of the writ of habeas corpus cases to protect people from wrong and unlawful imprisonment. Lee has also represented incarcerated people during the COVID-19 pandemic, successfully securing compassionate release for a client who was particularly vulnerable to the virus.

Judaism affirms, again and again, the importance of having a judiciary that is committed to justice and truth. Lee's record and experience overwhelmingly speak to this sentiment, and it is without hesitation that **NCJW urges you to support her nomination to the United States Court of Appeal for the Second Circuit.**

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women