



SABA North America’s Statement Regarding the Senate Judiciary Committee Confirmation Hearing for Adeel Mangi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As members of the Bar—indeed, as Americans—we have a duty to call out blatant bigotry exhibited and orchestrated by those in the highest levels of power and who claim to represent us and our American ideals. As the South Asian Bar Association, we especially have a duty to call out that bigotry when it is directed against one of our own.

Adeel Mangi has been nominated by President Biden to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and, if confirmed, Mr. Mangi would be the first Muslim-American judge on any federal appellate court in the country. The [Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on his \(and others’\) nomination](#) occurred on December 23, 2024.

Mr. Mangi is an ideal candidate for the Third Circuit. Over his 23-year career at a prominent law firm, he has litigated cases in 24 different states, in both state and federal court and at the district court and appellate levels. His work has included numerous complex commercial litigation matters as well as civil rights cases on behalf of religious communities relating to LGBTQ rights and unlawful surveillance. Mr. Mangi has been decorated with many accolades including Benchmark Litigation’s listing of “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” in the U.S., BTI Consulting Group’s “Client Service All-Star” award, and New York Law Journal’s “Rising Star” designation, among others.

Mr. Mangi's life is emblematic of the American dream. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, he emigrated to London and then the United States to pursue his education at Oxford and Harvard Law School. He became a citizen. He and his wife are raising two sons here. Unfortunately, his wife and sons were in the audience to witness the disgraceful behavior of three U.S. Senators, whose questioning had nothing to do with Mr. Mangi's qualifications or anything Mr. Mangi has said or done personally. Rather, their questions had everything to do with the fact that Mr. Mangi is not white and not Christian, like his inquisitors. At the hearing, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) questioned, "Do you condemn the atrocities of the Hamas terrorists?" And Senator John Neely Kennedy (R-LA) asked of Mr. Mangi, "Is this the way you celebrate 9/11?" And even after Mr. Mangi had unequivocally repeated his opposition to terrorism and anti-Semitism Senator Josh Hawley (R-LA) went in for perhaps the cheapest shot, asking Mr. Mangi—a man who has defended religious groups across the spectrum—whether he condemned the Holocaust.

And make no mistake, there is no way to read that hostile questioning as anything but religious and racial bigotry. The South Asian Bar Association of North America was born after 9/11 due to the extreme hate and violence against the South Asian community. Twenty-three years later, it is disappointing to see how little progress our country has made on that front. The questioning of Mr. Mangi and repeated requests that he denounce is just another example of attempts to "other" a person of South Asian descent, to suggest—in front of his wife and children, no less—that regardless of his many contributions to American society and to the rule of law and sense of justice that we claim as Americans to cherish, Mr. Mangi and his family, like the rest of us, will never be "real" Americans.

Recent news articles have reported that Mr. Mangi may not be confirmed by the Senate, at least in part due to the bigoted questioning by these Senators. The South Asian Bar Association of North America condemns bigotry in all its forms, and we will not stand for bigotry in the Senate any more than we would stand for it in our streets. That Mr. Mangi had to face this abhorrent questioning while being questioned about whether he could be a fair, impartial judge is the height of hypocrisy. Senators Cruz, Hawley and Kennedy should be ashamed.

Mr. Mangi is an extremely qualified lawyer, and his confirmation should be based on his qualifications, not his religion or race. We applaud the numerous organizations that, in the face of these baseless attacks, have stood up to support Mr. Mangi and denounced the bigoted questioning of his candidacy, including leading Jewish-American organizations like the [Anti-Defamation League](#) and the [National Council of Jewish Women](#). SABA North America urges the Senate to show the fairness and impartiality that it expects of the judicial nominees it evaluates and to swiftly confirm Mr. Mangi to the Court.