



Joint Statement from the South Asian Bar Association of North America, the South Asian Bar Association of North America Foundation, and the South Asian American Justice Collaborative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA North America), the South Asian Bar Association of North America Foundation (SABA Foundation), and the South Asian American Justice Collaborative (SAAJCO) stand resolute in their commitment to defending the rule of law, upholding justice, and ensuring that every individual—regardless of their background—is treated fairly and equally under the law.

In light of recent events, we feel compelled to reaffirm the core principles of our legal and democratic systems, as well as our joint mission to serve the South Asian community. This includes addressing recent deportation orders, unlawful detention of legal residents and U.S. citizens, threats to impeach judges, termination of federal employees, and eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

To empower our community, SABA North America has prepared an advocacy tool kit, which is available here to facilitate communications directly with our elected officials. If we all seize this call to action, we will show our elected officials that these actions do not represent our interests and that we expect more from them.

The Rule of Law: The rule of law is the bedrock of our democracy. No one person, institution, or entity is above it. Attempts to undermine this principle—whether through disregard for legal procedures, political interference, or the refusal to accept lawful judicial decisions—pose a direct threat to our legal system. We are deeply concerned by recent efforts that dismiss or belittle rulings that do not align with political interests, that undermine the public's trust in the judiciary, and/or that erode the foundational integrity of the rule of law. We call for a commitment to a legal system that is impartial, fair, and applies the law equally to all, regardless of political standing. We specifically call upon elected officials to uphold these values, to maintain separation of power, and to restore public confidence in our legal system.

Impeaching Judges: The recent calls to impeach judges, particularly those whose rulings go against political interests, present a serious threat to the independence of the judiciary. Two hundred years ago when our Founding Fathers ratified the U.S. Constitution, they specifically noted in *The Federalist Papers* that the judiciary was meant to act as “an intermediary between the people and the legislature.” This is to ensure that the legislative and executive branches only

**This statement reflects the views of the organizations listed, and not any individual members or chapter affiliates.* I



acted within the powers given to them by the people and enshrined in the Constitution. The principle of judicial independence is critical to ensuring that all individuals are subject to the law and protected by the Constitution, free from political interference. We strongly oppose the calls for impeachment of judges simply because their decisions go against political interests and will continue to defend judicial independence as a cornerstone of justice in our nation. As Chief Justice John Roberts shared recently, “impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision. The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose.” We agree.

Deportation Orders and Other Immigration Policies: Hardline immigration policies and increased deportation orders have disproportionately harmed immigrant communities, including South Asians. We are deeply concerned by reports of unlawful detentions, especially of those in the South Asian community. These actions tear apart families and ignore the human toll of such actions. We urge policymakers to shift toward more humane immigration reforms that prioritize family unity, compassion, and respect for the dignity of all individuals. Likewise, we are deeply concerned by calls for eliminating birth right citizenship and reports that green card holders are being pressured into relinquishing their green card status at the border.

Termination of Federal Employees: We recognize the challenges faced by thousands of federal employees who have recently been terminated and those whose job opportunities were unexpectedly rescinded. We are committed to supporting impacted employees by providing critical resources to assist in their career transitions. SABA North America will offer programming to assist with job transitions and networking events. In addition, this year SABA North America will allocate free registrations for our Annual Conference and will open a lottery for impacted individuals to attend our Annual Conference in Denver June 19-22, 2025, providing critical opportunities for networking, professional growth, development, and career opportunities in these difficult times. Finally, SABA North America Foundation is expanding pathways to support recent law school graduates and law students willing to work in the public interest.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to building a just and fair society. The recent rollback of DEI initiatives has caused harm across multiple sectors, including government agencies, educational institutions, and workplaces. As organizations that represent South Asian legal professionals and include many South Asian legal professionals on our board of directors, we recognize the significance of DEI in our profession and broader society. We advocate for policies that support an inclusive, equitable, and diverse society where every individual—regardless of race, ethnicity, or background—has equal access to opportunities.

We reaffirm our commitment to defending the rule of law, supporting immigrant communities, defending judicial independence, assisting terminated federal employees, and advancing diversity,



equity, and inclusion. We will continue to be a powerful voice for these principles and provide support to those who need it most in these challenging times.

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