



Statement from the South Asian Bar Association of North America on the Arrest of Judge Hannah Dugan

April 29, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The South Asian Bar Association of North America is concerned by the recent arrest of Judge Hannah Dugan by the FBI. The circumstances surrounding this arrest raise serious questions about respect for judicial independence, due process, and the boundaries between our co-equal branches of government.

Judge Dugan is a respected jurist with a long-standing commitment to justice and public service demonstrating a focus on protecting individual rights and ensuring the fair administration of the law. The decision to arrest a sitting judge—without transparent justification or clear procedural integrity—strikes at the heart of the rule of law. We urge the Department of Justice and the FBI to immediately provide a full and public accounting of the basis for this unprecedented action.

We also reject statements made by FBI Director Kash Patel in support of this arrest. His endorsement of this action undermines our nation's commitment to fairness, independence of the judiciary, and the principle that no person or institution should be targeted for political convenience.

As legal professionals, we are united in our belief that our justice system must remain free from undue influence, politicization, and intimidation. We call for transparency, accountability, and unwavering adherence to constitutional rights.