



Lobby Day Talking Points: Advocating for a Fair Judiciary

NELA wants every Senator to know and understand that working people are profoundly affected by the federal judiciary.

The federal judiciary plays a critical role in our democracy and the lives of tens of millions of working people. Every day, working people turn to the courts when they face wage theft, workplace discrimination or harassment, retaliation for being whistleblowers, or other unjust and illegal treatment on the job.

Federal circuit courts are the second highest courts in the nation. The United States Supreme Court hears roughly 100-150 cases each year. The federal circuit courts heard roughly 50,250 cases in 2020, which represented an increase of 5 percent over the prior year. And, in 2020 the federal district courts reported combined filings (in civil matters only) of 332,732. In most cases, the decisions of lower court judges are the final word. Federal appellate judges make decisions on issues affecting every aspect of our lives, including:

- Wage & Hour Law
- Anti-discrimination Law
- Health and Safety
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Immigration
- Reproductive Rights
- Environmental Justice
- Voting Rights

NELA thanks every Senator who has fought for fair courts, and calls on *all* Senators to support the Biden administration's stated priorities of ensuring that the judges who sit on the federal bench are both professionally diverse and demographically diverse.

In keeping with these priorities, NELA urges your senator to support the following highly qualified, excellent nominees.

- NELA endorses [Jennifer Sung](#) for U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Cir. (OR)
- NELA endorses [Myrna Pérez](#) for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Cir. (NY)
- NELA endorses Charlotte Sweeney for U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- NELA endorses Carolyn Lerner for U.S. Court of Federal Claims

NELA asks that Senators:

1. Ensure that their Judicial Selection Commissions are demographically and experientially diverse and that senators' recommendations to the White House reflect this much-needed diversity. Those whose names are submitted to the White House should have a record that demonstrates commitment to upholding individual rights and to our nation's civil and workers' rights laws.
2. Prioritize the work of ensuring that nominees are identified promptly when a vacancy occurs;
3. To the Senate Leadership and leadership of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we ask that nominations move through the senate expeditiously and that all pending nominees be confirmed by the end of the calendar year.