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*Via Email ([Deborah.Blanchard@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Deborah.Blanchard@cga.ct.gov)) and US Mail*

Deborah Blanchard  
Committee Administrator  
Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Nomination of Rupal Shah Palanki for Appointment to the Connecticut Superior Court**

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

On behalf of the South Asian Bar Association (“SABA”) of North America and South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (“SABAC”), we write to express SABA North America and SABAC’s strong support of Rupal Shah Palanki’s application for appointment to the Connecticut state court. SABA North America’s endorsement committee and leadership of SABA North America and SABAC have personally known Ms. Shah Palanki for many years and wholeheartedly endorse her application.

SABA North America serves as the umbrella organization for 26 regional South Asian bar associations throughout the United States and Canada. SABAC has been affiliated with SABA North America from its inception and represents South Asian lawyers and law students in the state of Connecticut. The rapidly growing South Asian legal community in the United States, which includes over 6,000 attorneys and law students, has made significant contributions in public service, private practice, and academia. Ms. Shah Palanki is an established and respected leader in that South Asian legal community. She has served on the Board of SABA North America and currently co-chairs the South Asian Women Attorneys Network. If appointed, she will be an asset to the Bench for many reasons, including the following:

- *Professional Abilities:* Ms. Shah Palanki is recognized as an elite litigator at the Connecticut Attorney General’s office. She has represented the state with distinction in tobacco litigation and distinguished herself in several multistate cases from federal-state collaborative work. Her more recent work has focused on securities fraud litigation involving the mortgage-backed securities market, including the current RMBS investigations. In that capacity she served on the Obama administration task-force investigating mortgage-backed securities. She is highly intelligent, analytical, a good listener and able to parse complex matters quickly and thoroughly.

- *Community Roots:* Ms. Shah Palanki is rooted in Connecticut. She grew up in Glastonbury, where her parents still reside and are actively involved in the community. Her dedication to serving her community has not wavered despite the demands of a busy practice and family. She has in fact become more involved with professional and community organizations. In her various roles with SABAC, she served on many committees and initiatives with the other diversity bar associations to further improve and impact the community. She has felt and still feels that she has made a real impact in Connecticut law and in the community at large. The South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut awarded 2008 Community Service Award her for work with Lawyers Without Borders and her dedication to the community.
- *Judicial Demeanor:* Ms. Shah Palanki has an ideal demeanor for the Bench and is thoughtful, articulate, and calm. She is well respected within the Connecticut Bar and by the South Asian community.
- *Leadership:* Ms. Shah Palanki is a well-recognized leader in the South Asian community and the community at large. As a young associate at Bingham, she took initiative and pursued matters of importance such as helping to create Lawyers Without Borders. Ms. Palanki also served as a founding board member for SABAC and went on to serve as its first female President. The Connecticut Bar Foundation and Oliver Ellsworth Inns of Court invited Ms. Palanki to join because of her leadership ability. The Connecticut Judicial Department awarded Ms. Palanki the 2008 Law Day Diversity Award for her continued leadership in the bar.
- *Diversity:* The face of justice must reflect the community, and Ms. Shah Palanki's appointment will bring much needed diversity to both the Connecticut Bench as well as to the entire federal judiciary. (To date, only one judge of South Asian descent has been appointed to the state bench.) As a child of immigrants, Ms. Shah Palanki is well positioned to understand the issues that face all immigrants and to assist the Bench in meeting the challenges faced by the diverse populations that appear before the courts in Connecticut. If appointed, Ms. Shah Palanki would serve as the first female, South Asian judge on the state bench and the first judge of Indian heritage.

Ms. Shah Palanki has distinguished herself in the law and the community. She would make an excellent addition to the state bench. NASABA and SABAC support her application.

If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know. Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,



Nadeem Bezar, Esq., SABA North America President



Andy Corea, SABA-C President