

September 10, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 200,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I write to express our support for the nomination of Justice Beth Robinson to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

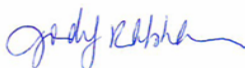
A pioneer in shaping the litigation and legislative strategy behind same-sex marriage, Justice Beth Robinson made history in 2011 as the first openly LGBTQ Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. Prior to joining the court, Robinson spent most of her career as a civil litigator focusing on employment law, worker's compensation, contract disputes, family law, and representing LGBTQ individuals in civil rights cases. If confirmed by the Senate, she would be the first openly lesbian judge to serve on a federal appellate court bringing an important perspective to the judiciary.

The federal judiciary is still predominantly white and male, representing 60% of the bench, with LGBTQ judges drastically underrepresented. Wider representation and a diversity of backgrounds on our federal courts ensures communities will be better reflected and increases public confidence in the decisions. In addition to much needed diversity, we have no doubt that Justice Robinson would also bring her deep experience, reverence for the law, and trailblazing spirit to the Second Circuit.

Jewish tradition is clear that everyone deserves equal treatment under the law. As the Torah teaches, "You shall have one standard of law for non-citizen and citizen alike" (*Leviticus 24:22*). From her more than eighteen years in private practice to a decade on the Vermont Supreme Court, Justice Robinson has remained committed to the rule of law and equal justice under the law. Indeed Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) called Robinson "a tireless champion for equal rights and equal justice in the mold of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

Justice Beth Robinson is a fair, independent, and qualified nominee and NCJW urges you to support her nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women