



Biden Administration Announces the Nomination of a Native American Attorney to the Federal Bench

PRESS RELEASE

May 12th, 2021 – The National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) applauds the nomination of Lauren King to the bench in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. If confirmed, Ms. King would be the first ever Native American judge to serve on the Western District of Washington, the sixth ever and fourth current sitting member of the federal judiciary that is Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian joining Judge Derrick Kahala Watson, nominated by President Obama in 2013 who currently serves in the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii; Judge Diane J. Humetewa nominated by President Obama in 2014 who currently serves in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona; and Judge Ada E. Brown, nominated by President Donald Trump in 2019, who currently serves in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

A federal bench that includes Native Americans is critical to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the continuation of democracy. A federal bench that reflects the composition of the U.S. population instills confidence in the judiciary. It is also important for the Native American legal community and future Native American lawyers to see ourselves as full participants in the legal profession.

NNABA congratulates Ms. King and the Biden Administration for its swift and inclusive slate of nominees. We urge full support of Ms. King through the nomination process.