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PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

CHAIR

Madeline deLone

September 8, 2026

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, we firmly urge you and your colleagues to reject the nomination of Courtney Coker to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Coker has spent much of his legal career as a federal prosecutor, but disturbingly, his self-proclaimed "most significant legal activities" include implementing Project EJECT and helping carry out the largest ICE raid in American history. Both of these campaigns wreaked significant havoc and caused lasting harm to some of the most marginalized communities in our country. Both were carried out when he served leadership roles, including serving as criminal chief for the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Mississippi. His values and his life's work do not suggest a commitment to fairness, independence or equal justice for all. Instead, he has weaponized the full force of the federal government to inflict lasting harm on immigrants, workers, and communities of color. We urge you to oppose his nomination as a federal judge serving on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Coker's questionnaire highlights that he helped plan the 2019 Mississippi ICE raids while serving as the local federal criminal chief. The Justice Department called these raids the "largest single-state worksite enforcement action in our nation's history." They resulted in the detention of approximately 680 Indigenous, Latino, and immigrant workers, and took place on the first day of school for many Mississippi children. Many kids came home to empty houses. Seemingly in retaliation, these raids also targeted poultry plants where workers had recently prevailed against their employer, Koch Foods, for rampant sexual harassment and race discrimination claims. No owner or executive at any of the seven companies raided were ever charged despite officials knowingly hiring undocumented workers.

As a leader in the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Mississippi, Coker also planned, facilitated, and implemented aspects of Project EJECT, a program defense attorneys and advocates reported as racist and elitist. Project EJECT essentially federalized local gun and drug cases in majority-Black Jackson, Mississippi.

Civil rights and criminal justice experts argued the program only secured longer sentences and displaced local residents by incarcerating them in federal prisons far away from Mississippi, disrupting support systems which are critical for reentry success after incarceration. Experts also decried the program's heavy criminalization of vulnerable, predominantly Black neighborhoods in Jackson, denouncing the program as a racist policy.

Coker not only served in leadership roles to advance these harmful policies – he highlighted these damaging “crowning achievements” as part of his application to serve on the judiciary. This demonstrates the precisely the anti-immigrant, anti-defendant biases which Coker would carry straight from his prosecutorial perch to the federal bench in the same district. If confirmed, he would preside over the immigration prosecutions, drug sentencings, suppression motions, and victims' rights claims that are the direct product of the enforcement model he spent his career building. For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of Courtney Coker to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice