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LDF Media
212-965-2200 / media@naacpldf.org

**LDF Issues Statement on Biden Administration Judicial Nomination of LDF Attorney
Natasha Merle for U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York**

Today, the Biden Administration announced its latest round of judicial nominations, including NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) Deputy Director of Litigation [Natasha Merle](#), who has been a member of the LDF litigation team since January 2016.

In response to the nomination, LDF President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill issued the following statement:

“We commend the Biden Administration for its nomination of LDF Deputy Director of Litigation Natasha Merle, a senior and highly-valued member of our litigation team to serve on the federal district court for the Eastern District of New York. Ms. Merle’s leadership among her colleagues, unsurpassed work ethic, and extraordinary skill and talent as a litigator are unassailable. Her deep experience as a trial lawyer, her reputation for fairness and collegiality, and her high ethical standards makes her an excellent choice to serve on the federal district court.

“Additionally, Ms. Merle’s confirmation will contribute to the racial, gender, and professional background diversity of the federal district court. Deeply knowledgeable and skilled, Ms. Merle is eminently qualified to join the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. We encourage the Senate Judiciary Committee to swiftly advance her nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.”

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Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation’s first civil and human rights law organization. LDF has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF’s Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF.

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