



Judge Paul DeFonzo
Immigration Court
1000 Second Ave, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Judge Paul Defonzo,

We, veterans of many generations, civilian allies, and concerned citizens are writing in unanimous support to our ally and friend Zahid Chaudhry. Zahid has been a cornerstone of the social justice community in Olympia, Washington where he and his wife Ann and their children reside.

Many of us met Zahid over ten years ago in the early stages of the Coffee Strong project. At the time Zahid was a member of local Olympia Veterans for Peace Chapter 109, and unconditional supporter of the young Iraq War veterans beginning to form a space to support active duty and recent veterans to find their voice and place in a movement against war and militarism.

Zahid came to the US from Pakistan on a visa in good faith and served in the National Guard. He is a decorated disabled US Army Veteran who was honorably discharged from service, and spent his many years since as a dedicated public servant. Zahid has fought an over 15 year battle for citizenship he rightfully earned and is due through Qualified Military Service. Zahid served honorably in the National Guard, as evidenced by his two honorable discharge certificates. During his time in the military, Zahid earned metals including the Reserve Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Force Reserve Medal, United States Army Service Ribbon, Recruitment Achievement Medal.

It is without hesitation that GI Voice gives our unconditional support to Zahid, who has been consistently active in our community. From supporting fellow veterans and our organization, supporting the homeless, urban farming, and numerous other charity fundraisers. We urge the immigration Judge Paul DeFonzo, the prosecuting attorney as well as the federal government to keep Zahid home and grant his immediate citizenship. We stand by Zahid.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Simpson", is written over a horizontal line.

Joshua Simpson, M.I.T.
Iraq War Veteran and Vice President of GI Voice