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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## LAW FORWARD SPEAKS OUT ON THREATS AGAINST WISCONSIN JUDGES

***Poland: Personal attacks and threats to the physical safety of judges are unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. It is even more reprehensible that these attacks are gendered and anti-Semitic; attacking judges based on religious affiliation or gender identity is contrary to Wisconsin values.***

MADISON, WI. DECEMBER 21, 2020 – Responding to reports of threats and discriminatory remarks against members of Wisconsin’s judiciary in the wake of a series high-stakes election cases, Law Forward Litigation Director Doug Poland issued the following statement today:

“The election cases are critically important to the governance of our state, and, understandably, draw wide public interest. Disagreeing with the outcome or the legal reasoning in any particular case, or by any particular judge, is one thing; presenting competing viewpoints is the very essence of our legal system, and disagreement with rulings is understandable. But let us be clear: personal attacks or threats to the physical safety of the judges who issue those opinions and their families are unacceptable and absolutely cannot and will not be tolerated.

There is no excuse for the threatening comments directed at Wisconsin’s judges, regardless of how much we might disagree with their rulings. They must be able to do their jobs free from intimidation or fears for their and their loved ones’ safety. All Wisconsinites deserve that security. In Wisconsin, judges are elected by the people rather than being appointed for life. The appropriate way to express disagreement with a judge’s approach is through the ballot box.

It is even more reprehensible that many of these comments have been gendered or anti-Semitic. Attacks against any Wisconsin resident based on religious beliefs or gender identity are contrary to the respect for religious beliefs and the inherent value of all people we hold dear in Wisconsin.

Law Forward is committed to equal justice for all under the law, and the right of everyone to live free from discrimination and threats of violence. That includes the members of our judiciary. We will continue to fight for that vision in the courts and across the state, and we call on all members of the State Bar, and bar associations, to stand in solidarity with and support our judiciary.”

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Law Forward is a non-profit law firm focused on protecting and advancing democracy in Wisconsin. We use impact litigation, the administrative process, and public education to protect Wisconsin’s fundamental democratic principles, and revive Wisconsin’s traditional commitment to clean and open government. Learn more about our work at [LawForward.org](http://LawForward.org).