

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Nomination of Kenneth A. Polite to Serve as Assistant Attorney General - Criminal
Division

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in strong support of Kenneth Polite's nomination to serve as the next Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Each of us has led that Division at different times and under different Democratic and Republican administrations. We know the importance and sensitivity of the Division's work in areas ranging from the prosecution of public corruption, to the protection of children from exploitation, to the policing of corporate fraud and the protection of markets and investors. The Criminal Division needs a strong and independent leader, and we are confident in Kenneth Polite's ability to serve well in that role.

Mr. Polite is well-qualified to lead the more than 600 prosecutors in the Criminal Division. He has a long record of public service, including as a line-level Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York earlier in his career, where he tried six felony jury trials to verdict. He later served as the Senate-confirmed U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana – a District which has a long partnership with the Criminal Division in prosecuting healthcare fraud as part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force program. In addition to his federal service, Mr. Polite has served on the Louisiana Civil Service Commission and the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission. He has served as a lawyer to organizations and individuals in private practice, most recently as a partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Philadelphia, and he has also gained valuable insights and perspectives into corporate compliance and governance as the former Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer for Entergy, a Fortune 500 energy company.

We are confident that Mr. Polite has the skill, integrity, legal acumen, and management ability to lead the Criminal Division. He has managed cases as a prosecutor, a complex organization as a Chief Compliance Officer, and a federal prosecutor's office as a U.S. Attorney. Through his career, he has demonstrated solid judgment and unbiased leadership. He is well-qualified to oversee the sensitive investigations and prosecutions handled by the Criminal Division and its specialized prosecution sections.

Thank you for considering our views in support of Mr. Polite's nomination.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Benczkowski
Assistant Attorney General
2018-2020

Lanny A. Breuer
Assistant Attorney General
2009-2013

Leslie R. Caldwell
Assistant Attorney General
2014-2017

Alice S. Fisher
Assistant Attorney General
2005-2008

Michael Chertoff
Assistant Attorney General
2001-2003