

**Letter in Support of Kristen Clarke from 77 Former Civil Rights Division Career Attorneys
Across Republican and Democratic Administrations**

April 7, 2021

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

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

Re: Nomination of Kristen M. Clarke as Assistant Attorney General

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write as former career attorneys in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to support the confirmation of Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Our service extends from the 1960s through the period of Ms. Clarke's employment and up to the more recent past, in both Republican and Democratic administrations. Some of us also served in supervisory roles in the Civil Rights Division. We are convinced that Ms. Clarke possesses the legal acuity, character, and commitment to the mission of the Civil Rights Division to lead it successfully.

Since its founding, the Division has been assigned responsibility for enforcement of the nation's foundational civil rights laws, including those addressing voting, police misconduct, violence motivated by race and other forms of bigotry, education, employment, and housing. Its primary tools are civil litigation and criminal prosecutions, but it also pursues cooperative solutions and renders legal advice on civil rights matters.

Of particular note, while serving as a trial attorney in the Division, Ms. Clarke specialized in areas of crucial contemporary relevance. In the Voting Section, she enforced the Voting Rights Act to ensure that all qualified people could cast meaningful ballots and participate equally in the political process. While in the Criminal Section, she handled matters involving law enforcement officers who violated constitutional rights and individuals who committed hate motivated violence. These areas should be central priorities for the Division in the years ahead.

Ms. Clarke's career since leaving the Civil Rights Division has deepened and broadened her experience. Through her employment with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, her service with the New York Attorney General, and her leadership of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, she has been involved in nearly every area of civil rights enforcement.

Her experience with the New York Attorney General has given her insight into state authorities, who are often the objects of Civil Rights Division enforcement efforts, and has enhanced her ability to deal sensitively and persuasively with them. Her position at the Lawyers Committee has allowed her to demonstrate her leadership ability, her litigation skills, and her effectiveness

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as a spokesperson for a substantial organization.

Since its founding, the Civil Rights Division has been at the heart of the federal government's commitment to remedy past and ongoing discrimination and to move the reality of America closer to its majestic ideals. It has developed a culture based on rigorous investigation, careful legal analysis, honest negotiation, clear communication, and, when necessary, skillful litigation.

In our collective view, Kristen Clarke has the qualities to continue that culture and our nation's progress toward a more just society. We, therefore, strongly endorse her confirmation as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Respectfully,

Abdulaleem, Raheemah, 2009-2015

Adelson, Bruce, 2000-2006

Adelstein, Jay, 1995-2018

Annexstein, Leslie, 1992-1997

Austin, Roy, 1995-2000

Becker, David 1998-2005

Berlin, Brenda, 1991-1997

Bhargava, Anurima, 2010-2016

Brett, Sharon, 2013-2018

Brochu, Kayla K., 2002-2011

C.deBaca, Luis, 1993-2009

Cader, Yasmin, 1993-1995

Cox, Todd, 1992-1995

Daniels, Gilda 1998-2006

Davis, Andre 1980-1981

Delaney, Sheila, 1973-2011

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Dougherty, Burtis M., 1974-2016

Dougherty, Salliann S.M., 1972-2005

Dunn, Christine, 2002-2008

Flowers, Kobie, 2000-2004

French, Susan, 1977-1987, 1998-2012

Gardner, William, 1970-1979

Gordon, Dan, 2000-2005

Gross, Mark, 1974-2016

Hack, Elizabeth, 1990-1997, 2010-2014

Harmon, Rachel, 1998-2006

Harrington, Sarah, 2000-2009

Heffernan, Brian 1978-2011

Hogan, Gerard 1988-2017

Hunter, David, 1975-2000

Jackson, Shelley, 1996-2000, 2010-2020

Jang, Deeana, 2010-2016

Jenkins, Sabrina, 1995-2005

Keefe, Edward, 2000-2004

Kengle, Robert 1984-2005

King, Loretta, 1980-1990, 1992-2011

Landsberg, Brian K., 1964-1986, 1993-1994

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Lewis, Donald, 1978-1982

Libman, Robert, 1991-2004

Liu, Andy, 2001-2003

Lomax, Christopher, 2008-2013

Lopez-Ortiz, Luz 2000-2019

Maloney, Karima, 2003-2015

Mansukhani, Sunil, 1999-2005

McAuliffe, Michael, 1989-1993

McGowan, Sharon, 2010-2012, 2014-2017

Merritt, Ted, 1978-1985

Middleton, Michael, 1971-1974

Miller, Tamara, 1996-2003

Moore, Hugh, 1970-1973

Moskowitz, Albert 1984-2006

Pershing, Steve 1996-2005

Rich, Joseph 1968-2005

Rifkin, Lori, 2010-2013

Rosenberg, John M., 1962-1970

Ruzicho, Jack, 1967-1973

Samberg-Champion, Sasha, 2010-2014

Schlanger, Margo, 1995-1998

Searing, Dan, 1977-2005

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Shinskie, Karen, 2001-2006

Spratt, Jacqueline, 1997-2006

Stapleton, Bill, 1980-1986

Stewart, Louie, 1974-2003

Telfeyan, Phil, 2009-2014

Troth, Rebecca, 1990-2001

Tucker, James 1999-2002

Swaruup, Vikram, 2016-2019

Ver Ploeg, Christine, 1974-1977

Vieco, Adriana, 1999-2015

Walsh, James, 2000-2009

Weinberg, Barry, 1965-2000

Winfrey, Hon. Gregory, 1991-1993

Wodatch, John, 1980-2011

Yeomans, William 1981-2005

Zisser, Aaron, 2009-2015

Zolle, Dayna, 2016-2019

Zwibelman, Michael, 1999-2002