

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Senator Richard Durbin, Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The AFL-CIO Union Lawyers Alliance, which represents labor lawyers across the country who fight for the rights of working people, writes to voice our strong support for the nomination of Kristen M. Clarke as the Assistant Attorney General for the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. Ms. Clarke has engaged in civil rights advocacy from varying levels of authority, both inside and outside the government; her deep commitment to the purpose of the Civil Rights Division and broad experience make her an exceptional candidate for this position. We commend President Biden for making such a strong selection and encourage you to support her confirmation.

Ms. Clarke is eminently suited to lead the Civil Rights Division. She began her career with impressive academic credentials, including an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor from Columbia University. From there, she became a prosecutor for the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Co-Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund's Political Participation Group, Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau at the New York Attorney General's office, and President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. In these positions, she has personally handled or overseen cases on voting rights, human trafficking, hate crimes, police misconduct, housing discrimination, racial profiling, equal access for people with disabilities, and religious accommodation, among others. She has worked on the ground, in the middle, and at the top of management structures and understands the dynamics of running a large organization that must contend with countervailing pressures while standing in the public eye.

At a time when so many in this country are desperate for national leadership that shows true commitment to fighting for the rights of historically oppressed groups, Ms. Clarke's confirmation will assuage that desperation and give hope to the millions working for change. She has devoted her entire professional life to pursuing the aims that the Civil Rights Division embodies. She has demonstrated that she has the legal, administrative, and leadership skills that are required for this role. We hope that you will act quickly to confirm Ms. Clarke to the position so that she can apply her formidable talents to this vital work.

Thank you for considering the collective voice of our 2,000 attorney members.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO Union Lawyers Alliance