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The
Barristers' Association
of Philadelphia, Inc.
An Affiliate of the National Bar Association

Addressing Your Concerns! Serving Your Needs!
1735 Market Street, Suite A234, Philadelphia, PA 19103
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August 1, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
Committee of the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To The Honorable Richard Durbin:

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. was founded in 1950 to address the needs of African-American attorneys in Philadelphia. Since then, we have been a committed catalyst for change and a voice of advocacy for correcting historical injustices in this City. We have played an intricate role in elevating Black voices and addressing the needs of our community.

The American judicial system has a history littered with the negation of equality and noble attempts of correction thereafter. The road for Black law students, practitioners, judges, and legal scholars is filled with obstacles presented as a result of the systemic barriers designed throughout history to prevent and discourage our inclusion in the legal profession. Organizations such as the Barristers' Association located in every major city demonstrate the existence of excellent Black attorneys in every area of practice. Yet, our courts are a poor reflection of diversity in practice. In recent years, conversations of equality and inclusion have been on the forefront of every industry. While we stand in this very moment of history, more definitive steps must be taken to put words to action and demand that representation on the bench reflect reality.

The Barristers' Association has stood in support of recent judicial nominees put forward by President Biden. We continue to applaud his effort to elevate qualified diverse candidates to positions that have long been further from reach. To that end, we proudly support the President's recent nomination of the Honorable Kai Scott of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Judge Scott has served on the bench since 2015. Prior to her service, Judge Scott dedicated her career to representing indigent clients as an Assistant Public Defender at the Defenders' Association of Philadelphia for over five years. In 2004, Judge Scott became a Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where she would soon serve as Chief of the Trial Unit. Judge Scott's dedication to justice, diversity, and community has also led her to be an active member of various social, spiritual, and legal organizations. Judge Scott serves diligently as an Advisory Board Member of the Barristers' Association, where she has helped to guide the organization through the lens of her experience as a learned practitioner and well-respected judge. Judge Scott has gained the respect of her peers, as well as those who come before her. Additionally, she has given her time to mentor and guide many attorneys of color throughout the city of Philadelphia. Her commitment to justice, dedication to the legal profession, and service to her community make her a valuable addition to our Federal Court.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. proudly supports the nomination of The Honorable Kai Scott. Her confirmation will not only serve as a step towards adequate representation but also as recognition of her outstanding career in public service.

Respectfully,

Adara L. Combs, Esq.
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