



Communications Workers of America

Chris Shelton | *President*

Government Affairs Department

Dan Mauer | *Director*

May 7th, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the members and officers of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing to urge you to support the confirmation of Kristen Clarke as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. Throughout her career, Clarke has demonstrated the resolve to stand behind America's working families by fighting for gender equality and religious freedom in the workplace and fairer banking practices for low-income consumers. If confirmed, Clarke will work diligently to ensure that all workers are treated fairly regardless of their identities.

During her tenure in the New York State Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau, Clarke proved her resilience for putting an end to hostile and discriminatory work environments. When 300 women working at the utility company, Con Edison, made complaints about gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, Clarke led an investigation into the company. The investigation found that Con Edison was in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New York State Human Rights Law and New York City Human Rights Law, which all prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sex. Through Clarke's commitment to safe and fair work environments, her investigation led to a \$3.8 million settlement, stricter workplace protocols, management training, and employee 'know-your-rights' education.

Further, Clarke has demonstrated her dedication to strengthening our banking system and ensuring that it works, not only for the rich, but also for low-income consumers. When four of New York's largest banks - Capital One, Citibank, Santander, and Chase Bank - were exposed for their excessively harsh checking account application screening criteria, Clarke took a strong stance with consumers. Through negotiations, Clarke and her team won expanded access to mainstream banking services for primarily low-income customers nationwide who had made relatively small financial errors. Clarke compelled each bank to revise their screening process which gave customers access to checking accounts or prepaid debit cards and empowered them to avoid payday lenders and other high-interest rate predatory lending services.

This nomination of the first woman of color to lead the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, would not only make American history, but it would also make America safer and more just. Through her selfless hard work, Kristen Clarke has proven to embody the mission, vision, and values of the Civil Rights Division. CWA strongly supports her confirmation and we have full confidence that she will continue to make certain America's working families are represented in the face of injustice.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Mauer".

Dan Mauer
Director of Government Affairs
Communications Workers of America (CWA)