

**Crime Victims/Survivors and Victim Services Professionals Support
for Sparkle Sooknanan – U.S. District Court, District of Columbia**

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schumer, Durbin, McConnell and Graham:

We are writing in support of the nomination of Sparkle Sooknanan to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She has the personal and professional background and qualifications that we believe will enable her to serve with distinction and make a valuable contribution to the work of this most important court. Through her dedication and strenuous efforts, she has worked her way through college, post-college and law school to become a most accomplished and distinguished attorney in both the private and public sectors.

Of special significance, we believe, has been her work in the Office of the Associate Attorney General and in particular her efforts in helping to oversee the work of the Office on Violence Against Women and the bipartisan reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA), which included many necessary updates to grant programs benefiting survivors of domestic violence by recognizing the need for culturally-specific services.

Her experience includes working on behalf of racial equity and support for underserved communities, as well as the promotion and expansion of voter registration, access and participation.

We strongly urge the Committee and ultimately the full Senate to vote favorably on Ms. Sooknanan's nomination.

Sincerely,

Vickey Cornelison Grant
Victim Services Professional
South Carolina

Nela Kalpic
National Victims'
Rights Advocate
North Carolina

Anne Seymour
National Crime Victim/Survivor
Advocate
Washington, DC

Elizabeth Cronin
Victim Services Professional
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Dean G. Kilpatrick, Ph. D
South Carolina

Steve Siegel
Executive Director Emeritus
Special Programs Unit
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Steve Derene
Executive Director (Retired)
National Assn of VOCA
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