

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2025



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The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Current and Former RNLA Leaders Support Confirmation of Harmeet K. Dhillon to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are current and past Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Presidents of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA). We write in support of Harmeet K. Dhillon, President Trump's nominee for Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Harmet has been a stalwart attorney and colleague of ours for many years. We have witnessed first-hand that her leadership capabilities are above reproach and will serve the Department of Justice well. She is a lawyer's lawyer who understands the challenges the Department and Civil Rights Division face and will acquit herself admirably in service to the country.

She served on the RNLA's Board of Governors for nearly a decade and was chosen by the RNLA Board to serve as Vice President for Communications, Co-Chair, and Chair from 2017 to 2023. Throughout her service to the organization, she was a dedicated professional and chose to lead the RNLA from the front, setting a positive agenda and ensuring that the RNLA's members were educated on the most relevant issues of the day. Under her leadership, the RNLA grew and further progressed toward its unofficial goal of being the "bar association" and home for Republican lawyers. And she did all this in addition to running her own law firm, founding and guiding a civil liberties-protecting non-profit organization, frequently appearing in the media, and caring for family members with medical issues.

We have seen her dedicate substantial time and expertise to protecting civil rights and expect her to be just as zealous an advocate for civil rights as Assistant Attorney General as in her private practice. Harmet's experience includes ensuring employers are held accountable for race, age, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination, protecting clients' First Amendment Rights, and supporting voting rights.

Harmet has not shied away from protecting individuals' civil rights either when not popular to do so or when assuming reputational risks representing them. For example, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Harmet protected the rights of people to attend in-person religious gatherings, even though the general public attitudes in California supported the lockdowns. After losses in the lower

courts, the Supreme Court delivered rulings vindicating her clients' religious liberty rights. She is fearless and tenacious in fighting for what is right.

In addition, Harmeet has dedicated herself, throughout her career, to leading other attorneys, helping them grow and achieve their full potential. We know that she will help the attorneys at the Civil Rights Division reach their full potential and accomplish the Division's critical work.

Harmeet's experience and dedication to protecting civil liberties makes her the perfect candidate to lead the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Because we all have personally witnessed or experienced her leadership qualities and concern for her fellow Americans and their rights, she has our full endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Current and Former Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Presidents of the Republican National Lawyers Association *

*All persons have signed in their personal, and not their official or professional, capacities.

Lee Goodman
RNLA Chair
Virginia

Michael B. Thielen
RNLA President
Virginia

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RNLA Co-Chair
Washington, D.C.

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RNLA Chair (2024)
RNLA President (2023)
Missouri

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Washington, D.C.

David Bowsher
RNLA President (2021-2022)
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Larry Levy
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RNLA President (2015-2016)
New York

Manuel Iglesias
RNLA Chair (2019-2020)
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RNLA Co-Chair (2018-2019)
Washington, D.C.

Elliot Berke
RNLA President (2017-2018)
Washington, D.C.

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RNLA Chair and
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RNLA Chair (2013-2016)
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RNLA Co-Chair (2011-2014)
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RNLA President (2005-2006)
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