



February 23, 2021

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

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

Re: Letter in Support of Lisa Monaco, nominee for Deputy Attorney General

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman Durbin, Minority Leader McConnell, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to you to offer my support for Lisa Monaco, President Biden's nominee to be the Deputy Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice.

As a former federal prosecutor for more than fifteen years, I understand the importance of a Justice Department that is impartial, independent, and deeply committed to the fair administration of justice. As Deputy Attorney General, Ms. Monaco would carry significant responsibility in ensuring that the Department of Justice lives up to those values, and I am confident that she could do so and would be a valuable asset to the Department of Justice and our country.

Having served in numerous leadership roles in the Department over 15 years, Ms. Monaco has a wealth of experience that will serve her well in this role. Ms. Monaco's prior exemplary service as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General for National Security would enable her to help lead the Department. The US Department of Justice is a massive government agency, with a \$28 billion budget and more than 110,000 employees;

Ms. Monaco's past experience will be invaluable, especially at a moment in time when we need leaders who will not have a steep learning curve!

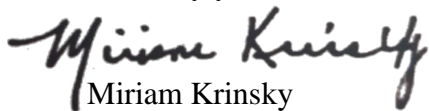
Ms. Monaco would also bring a needed commitment to justice as we grapple as a nation with a multitude of challenges including the impact of the novel coronavirus on our justice system and those behind bars, mounting calls to reckon with longstanding issues around systemic racism, and the dire need to address police accountability and oversight. The Deputy Attorney General plays a critical role in overseeing several important portfolios related to criminal justice generally, and all of these issues in particular. Chief among them is the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), an agency that now holds more than 150,000 people in its facilities, 600% more than in 1980. While the federal prison population has decreased in recent years, 155,562 people behind bars during a deadly pandemic is too many. Already, over [48,000 people](#) imprisoned in federal facilities have tested positive for Covid-19, and 222 of those have died. Similarly, our nation is at a key moment when proactive efforts to address systemic racism and reform policing are timely and integral to restoring trust in our criminal legal system. Ms. Monaco will bring essential compassion and leadership to addressing these crises.

For the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) (FJP), a network of state and local prosecutors committed to promoting a justice system that is grounded in equity, compassion, and fairness. Our network needs federal partners that are committed to improving fairness and equity on the federal level and on the state and local level by working with state Attorneys General and local prosecutors and law enforcement. Based on my contact with Ms. Monaco, I am confident that she has the values and expertise to lead the Justice Department to these goals, and also that she realizes the valuable partnership with, and importance of engaging and supporting, local criminal justice leaders in these efforts.

I encourage you to swiftly send Ms. Monaco's nomination to the Senate and vote to confirm her.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Krinsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miriam Krinsky
Executive Director
Fair and Just Prosecution