



Clarence J. Robinson Professors

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August 15, 2022

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

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

Re: **Nomination of Amy L. Solomon as Assistant Attorney General
for the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

Having served as Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) for nearly 10 years, I write to express my support for the confirmation of Amy L. Solomon for that position.

As you know, OJP's mission differs from that of other Justice Department components. But its role is a vital one – supporting innovation and knowledge development based on “what works” in addressing crime, and serving as a key link between DOJ and states, localities and tribal communities on criminal and juvenile justice and crime victim assistance. This is particularly crucial right now as the nation faces tremendous challenges in dealing with crime and ensuring the fair administration of justice. I have known Ms. Solomon well for more than 25 years since she came to OJP in the '90s after receiving a Master's from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. When I returned to OJP again as AAG in 2009, I hired her as my Senior Advisor. From this long working relationship, I am certain Ms. Solomon possesses the qualities needed to lead OJP.

Two of Ms. Solomon's greatest strengths that would be invaluable assets as OJP's leader are, first, her ability to effectively use research to inform policy and practice, and, second, her successes at interagency collaboration (a goal often discussed in

government but, in my experience, less frequently achieved over the long term). One example illustrates both of these skills: When I was AAG in the Obama Administration, Amy served as Executive Director of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. This was a Cabinet-level body that met every 6 months to coordinate the effort and set long range goals. But the working heart of the initiative was a staff level group – chaired by Amy - that met monthly with representatives from more than two dozen federal agencies. As they grappled with implementing changes agreed to by the Council – such as drafting proposed communications from HUD on fair housing guidance relating to reentry – Amy negotiated debates in the group on language and approach. Because of her deep familiarity with research on reentry, she was able to provide the group with the latest scientific findings on effectiveness in this area. When some agency staff balked at proposals, she reached out to follow up personally with participants to resolve disputes and keep momentum going. A Government Accountability Office (GAO) review called the Reentry Council one of the most successful interagency collaborations it had seen in the federal government. From my own experience in government, I attribute that success to Amy Solomon’s tremendous leadership skills, her strengths as a strategist and conceptualizer, and – importantly – her strong interpersonal skills. It also illustrated that, without fanfare, she got results.

Amy Solomon is, simply put, one of the most capable people among the hundreds and hundreds with whom I’ve worked over a long career. I encourage you to take prompt action on Ms. Solomon’s nomination, and appreciate the opportunity to provide these views.

Respectfully submitted,



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Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice
Programs
1993 – 2000 and
2009 – 2012