

February 18, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin & Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned, are more than 150 former United States Attorneys and other senior Department of Justice officials. Collectively, we have served in 46 states and the District of Columbia under both Democratic and Republican Administrations. We write in support of President Biden's nomination of Judge Merrick B. Garland to serve as Attorney General of the United States and to express our strong belief that Judge Garland is not only supremely qualified for the position, but is also well-equipped to address the many challenges before us.

Judge Garland has dedicated much of his life to the American justice system. Following his Second Circuit and Supreme Court clerkships, he began his career at the Department of Justice before moving to private practice, where he represented clients in commercial cases with a focus on administrative and antitrust law. Judge Garland later served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia, where he prosecuted narcotics activity and white-collar crime, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, and as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. In this last role, he worked on many of the Department of Justice's most crucial investigations, including the Oklahoma City bombing and the UNABOMBER case. He became deeply respected by his colleagues for his commitment to evenhanded application of the law without regard for political pressures or media scrutiny.

Throughout his twenty-four years on the bench, Judge Garland has demonstrated his commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law. He has been praised for his absolute fidelity to statutory law as clarified by precedent. His lifelong commitment to civil rights has often been manifested in his decisions that have ensured that individuals are protected from unlawful discrimination regardless of age, race, or gender.

Judge Garland's familiarity with public and private litigation in varied areas of the law, as well as his time on the D.C. Circuit, make him well-suited to lead the Department of Justice. Moreover, his reputation for impartiality and his steadfast commitment to fairness will inspire a Department that prioritizes its independence and integrity.

The work and reputation of the Department of Justice are as important as they have ever been. Judge Garland is the right person to ensure the fair administration of justice, whether related to national security, public integrity, civil rights, antitrust, crime, or other pressing issues. He is also the right person to do so with integrity, humility, and a complete understanding of the substantial responsibility on his shoulders at this time. As Judge Garland himself expressed when he was nominated, the rule of law is the very foundation of our democracy. And we can unequivocally state that Judge Garland is the right person to ensure that the rule of law remains, in our national consciousness, one of our most deeply-held values.

We are confident that Judge Merrick Garland will dedicate himself to the Department of Justice and its values, and we urge the Senate to confirm him promptly as the next Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,

Alberto R. Gonzales

Attorney General of the United States,
2005 – 2007

Eric Holder

Attorney General of the United States,
2009 – 2015; Deputy Attorney General,
1997 – 2001; U.S. Attorney, District of
Columbia, 1993 – 1997

Loretta Lynch

Attorney General of the United States,
2015 – 2017; U.S. Attorney, E. District of
New York, 2010 – 2015

Michael B. Mukasey

Attorney General of the United States,
2007 – 2009

Stuart M. Gerson

Acting Attorney General of the United States,
1993; Assistant Attorney General,
1989 – 1993

Peter Keisler

Acting Attorney General of the United States,
2007; Assistant Attorney General for the Civil
Division, 2003 – 2007; Acting Associate
Attorney General and Principal Deputy
Associate Attorney General, 2002

Sally Q. Yates

Acting Attorney General of the United States,
2017; Deputy Attorney General, 2015 – 2017;
U.S. Attorney, N. District of Georgia, 2004,
2010 – 2015

Donald Ayer

Deputy Attorney General, 1989 – 1990; U.S.
Attorney, E. District of California,
1982 – 1986

James M. Cole

Deputy Attorney General, 2010 – 2015

Carol E. Dinkins

Deputy Attorney General, 1984 – 1985;
Assistant Attorney General for the
Environment and Natural Resources Division,
1981 – 1983

Mark R. Filip

Deputy Attorney General, 2008 – 2009

David W. Ogden

Deputy Attorney General, 2009 – 2010;
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil
Division, 1999 – 2001

Edward C. O’Callaghan

Acting Deputy Attorney General, 2019;
Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General
2018 – 2019

Theodore B. Olson

Solicitor General, 2001 – 2004; Assistant
Attorney General for the Office of Legal
Counsel, 1981 – 1984

Seth Waxman

Solicitor General, 1997 – 2001

Ian Heath Gershengorn

Acting Solicitor General 2016 – 2017;
Principal Deputy Solicitor General,
2013 – 2016

Wayne Budd

Associate Attorney General, 1992 – 1993;
U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts,
1989 – 1992

Kevin J. O’Connor

Associate Attorney General, 2008 – 2009;
U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut,
2002 – 2008

John Schmidt

Associate Attorney General, 1994 – 1997

Jamie S. Gorelick

Deputy Attorney General, 1994 – 1997

Larry D. Thompson

Deputy Attorney General, 2001 – 2003; U.S.
Attorney, N. District of Georgia, 1982 – 1986

Gary G. Grindler

Acting Deputy Attorney General, 2010;
Chief of Staff to the Attorney General,
2011 – 2012; Principle Associate Deputy
Attorney General, 1999

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.

Solicitor General, 2011 – 2016

Walter E. Dellinger III

Acting Solicitor General, 1996 – 1997;
Assistant Attorney General for the Office of
Legal Counsel, 1993 – 1996

Neal Kumar Katyal

Acting Solicitor General, 2010 – 2011;
Principal Deputy Solicitor General,
2009 – 2011

Daniel Marcus

Associate Attorney General, 2000 – 2001

Thomas J. Perrelli

Associate Attorney General, 2009 – 2012

Tony West

Associate Attorney General, 2012 – 2014;
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil
Division, 2009 – 2012

William Baer

Acting Associate Attorney General, 2016 – 2017; Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, 2013 – 2016

Lanny Breuer

Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 2009 – 2013

Alice S. Fisher

Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 2005 – 2008

John C. Richter

Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 2005; U.S. Attorney, W. District of Oklahoma, 2005 – 2009

Kent Alexander

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Georgia, 1994 – 1997

Daniel G. Bogden

U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada, 2001 – 2007, 2009 – 2017

Kenyen Brown

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Alabama, 2009 – 2017

Donna A. Bucella

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Florida, 1999 – 2001

Richard G. Callahan

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Missouri, 2010 – 2017

Tony Canales

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Texas, 1977 – 1980

Brian A. Benczkowski

Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 2018 – 2020

Michael Chertoff

Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 2001 – 2003; U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey, 1990 – 1994

Kenneth Wainstein

Assistant Attorney General for National Security, 2006 – 2008; U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia, 2004 – 2006

William F. Weld

Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, 1986 – 1988; U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts, 1981 – 1986

A. Lee Bentley, III

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Florida, 2013 – 2017

Gregory A. Brower

U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada, 2008 – 2009

John L. Brownlee

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Virginia, 2001 – 2008

Dennis K. Burke

U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, 2009 – 2011

Mark T. Calloway

U.S. Attorney, W. District of North Carolina, 1994 – 2001

Robert Capers

U.S. Attorney, E. District of New York, 2015 – 2017

Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr.
U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Louisiana,
2010 – 2013

Robert J. Cleary
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey,
1999 – 2002

W.J. Michael Cody
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Tennessee,
1977 – 1981

Richard Cullen
U.S. Attorney, E. District of Virginia,
1991 – 1993

Gregory Davis
U.S. Attorney, S. District of Mississippi,
2012 – 2017

Steven Dettelbach
U.S. Attorney, N. District of Ohio,
2009 – 2016

Edward L. Dowd, Jr.
U.S. Attorney, E. District of Missouri,
1993 – 1999

Conner Eldridge
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Arkansas,
2010 – 2015

David Fein
U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut,
2010 – 2013

Paul J. Fishman
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey,
2009 – 2017

Robert B. Fiske, Jr.
U.S. Attorney, S. District of New York,
1976 – 1980

Paul K. Charlton
U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona,
2001 – 2006

Sanford C. Coats
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Oklahoma,
2009 – 2016

Michael W. Cotter
U.S. Attorney, District of Montana,
2009 – 2017

Deirde M. Daly
U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut,
2013 – 2017

Thomas E. Delahanty II
U.S. Attorney, District of Maine,
1980 – 1981, 2010 – 2017

Tammy Dickinson
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Missouri,
2013 – 2017

Jenny A. Durkan
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Washington,
2009 – 2014

Zachary Fardon
U.S. Attorney, N. District of Illinois,
2013 – 2017

Wifredo Ferrer
U.S. Attorney, S. District of Florida,
2010 – 2017

John Fishwick
U.S. Attorney, W. District of Virginia,
2015 – 2017

Patrick Fitzgerald
U.S. Attorney, N. District of Illinois,
2001 – 2012

Deborah R. Gilg

U.S. Attorney, District of Nebraska,
2009 – 2017

Jonathan L. Goldstein

U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey,
1974 – 1977

Walt Green

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Louisiana,
2014 – 2017

Melinda Haag

U.S. Attorney, N. District of California,
2010 – 2015

Timothy J. Heaphy

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Virginia,
2009 – 2014

Karen P. Hewitt

U.S. Attorney, S. District of California,
2007 – 2010

Dwight C. Holton

U.S. Attorney, District of Oregon,
2010 – 2011

John Horn

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Georgia,
2015 – 2017

Marcos Daniel Jiménez

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Florida,
2002 – 2005

B. Todd Jones

U.S. Attorney, District of Minnesota,
1998 – 2001, 2009 – 2013

Wendy H. Goggin

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Tennessee,
1998 – 2000

Booth Goodwin

U.S. Attorney, S. District of West Virginia,
2010 – 2015

Barry R. Grissom

U.S. Attorney, District of Kansas,
2010 – 2016

Kerry B. Harvey

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Kentucky,
2010 – 2017

Thomas B. Heffelfinger

U.S. Attorney, District of Minnesota,
1991 – 1993, 2001 – 2006

Faith S. Hochberg

U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey,
1994 – 1999

Walter C. Holton, Jr.

U.S. Attorney, M. District of North Carolina,
1994 – 2001

Roscoe C. Howard, Jr.

U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2001 – 2004

Brendan Johnson

U.S. Attorney, District of South Dakota,
2009 – 2015

John P. Kacavas

U.S. Attorney, District of New Hampshire,
2009 – 2015

David N. Kelley

U.S. Attorney, S. District of New York,
2003 – 2005

Nick Klinefeldt

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Iowa,
2009 – 2015

William Leone

U.S. Attorney, District of Colorado,
2004 – 2006

Jessie K. Liu

U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2017 – 2020

George Lowe

U.S. Attorney, N. District of New York,
1978 – 1982

Ronald C. Machen

U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2010 – 2015

Damon Martinez

U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico,
2014 – 2017

John McKay

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Washington,
2001 – 2006

Barbara McQuade

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Michigan,
2010 – 2017

Patrick Miles, Jr.

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Michigan,
2012 – 2017

Greg Miller

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Florida,
2002 – 2008

William C. Killian

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Tennessee,
2010 – 2015

Kathryn Landreth

U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada,
1993 – 2001

James A. Lewis

U.S. Attorney, Central District of Illinois,
2010 – 2016

Karen Loeffler

U.S. Attorney, District of Alaska,
2010 – 2015

Neil MacBride

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Virginia,
2009 – 2013

Pamela C. Marsh

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Florida,
2010 – 2015

Jay P. McCloskey

U.S. Attorney, District of Maine, 1993 – 2001

Michael D. McKay

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Washington,
1989 – 1993

Zane David Memeger

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Pennsylvania,
2010 – 2016

Eric S. Miller

U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont,
2015 – 2017

Jan Paul Miller

U.S. Attorney, Central District of Illinois,
2002 – 2005

Michael J. Moore

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Georgia,
2010 – 2015

Peter F. Neronha

U.S. Attorney, District of Rhode Island,
2009 – 2017

Thomas P. O'Brien

U.S. Attorney, Central District of California,
2007 – 2009

Wendy Olson

U.S. Attorney, District of Idaho, 2010 – 2017

Matthew D. Orwig

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Texas,
2001 – 2007

Tim Purdon

U.S. Attorney, District of North Dakota,
2010 – 2015

Carole Rendon

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Ohio,
2016 – 2017

David Rivera

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Tennessee,
2013 – 2017

Sarah R. Saldaña

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Texas,
2011 – 2014

Samuel K. Skinner

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Illinois,
1975 – 1977

Carter Stewart

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Ohio,
2009 – 2016

Florence Nakakuni

U.S. Attorney, District of Hawaii,
2009 – 2017

Bill Nettles

U.S. Attorney, District of South Carolina,
2010 – 2016

Charles Oberly

U.S. Attorney, District of Delaware,
2010 – 2017

Carmen M. Ortiz

U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts,
2009 – 2017

Channing Phillips

U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2015 – 2017

Ripley Rand

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of North
Carolina, 2011 – 2017

Emily Gray Rice

U.S. Attorney, District of New Hampshire,
2016 – 2017

Richard A. Rossman

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Michigan,
1980 – 1981

Scott Schools

U.S. Attorney, N. District of California,
2007 – 2008; U.S. Attorney, District of South
Carolina, 2001

Chuck Stevens

U.S. Attorney, E. District of California,
1993 – 1997

Brian Stretch

U.S. Attorney, N. District of California,
2016 – 2018

Edward J. Tarver

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Georgia,
2009 – 2017

R.E. Thompson

U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico,
1978 – 1982

Anne M. Tompkins

U.S. Attorney, W. District of North Carolina,
2010 – 2015

John W. Vaudreuil

U.S. Attorney, W. District of Wisconsin,
2010 – 2017

Thomas Walker

U.S. Attorney, E. District of North Carolina,
2011 – 2016

Atlee W. Wampler III

U.S. Attorney, S. District of Florida,
1980 – 1982

Joe D. Whitley

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Georgia,
1990 – 1993; U.S. Attorney, M. District of
Georgia, 1981 – 1986

Debra Wong Yang

U.S. Attorney, Central District of California,
2002 – 2006

Stephanie Yonekura

Acting U.S. Attorney, Central District of
California, 2014 – 2015

Kevin W. Techau

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Iowa,
2014 – 2017

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.

U.S. Attorney, District of South Carolina,
2001 – 2005

Joyce White Vance

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Alabama,
2009 – 2017

Benjamin B. Wagner

U.S. Attorney, E. District of California,
2010 – 2016

John Walsh

U.S. Attorney, District of Colorado,
2010 – 2016

Mary Jo White

U.S. Attorney, S. District of New York,
1993 – 2002

Danny Williams

U.S. Attorney, N. District of Oklahoma,
2012 – 2017

Vincent H. Cohen, Jr.

Acting U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2015

Jeffrey A. Taylor

Interim U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia,
2006 – 2009