

BIPARTISAN LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM FORMER SENIOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND U.S.
ATTORNEYS ON BEHALF OF KRISTEN CLARKE

April 12, 2021

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

Re: Letter in Support of Kristen Clarke, nominee for the United States Assistant Attorney
General for the Civil Rights Division

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

We write in enthusiastic support of Kristen Clarke, the President's nominee to serve as the
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

We served as Senior Officials in the U.S. Department of Justice and as United States Attorneys
in federal districts across the country in multiple Republican and Democratic Administrations.
We understand the importance of being able to work closely with Justice Department
leadership, and especially with the Civil Rights Division, in order to protect some of the most
important rights of the people in both civil and criminal cases. This includes the enforcement of
federal civil rights laws, including disability rights, education rights, employment rights, housing
rights, and voting rights.

In our roles, we saw firsthand the importance of building broad coalitions across state and local
law enforcement, as we worked together to bring down human trafficking rings and apprehend
fugitives. The Justice Department and U.S. Attorney community need an effective leader at the
helm of the Civil Rights Division, someone with immense credibility, who is capable of building
partnerships and trust with state and local law enforcement, with community organizations and
leaders, and with our offices.

Ms. Clarke is one of the leading civil rights lawyers in America, and she is uniquely suited to
carry on this work of coalition-building as the head of the Civil Rights Division. She has not only
vigorously fought against discrimination in all forms, including housing discrimination and

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religious discrimination, but she has also developed a national reputation as someone who is principled, dedicated, and faithful to the rule of law.

Ms. Clarke began her career in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division where she first served as a trial attorney in the Voting Section and then moved on to become a federal prosecutor handling law enforcement misconduct cases, hate crimes, human trafficking, and other criminal violations. Much of this work involved partnership and collaboration with U.S. Attorney's Offices. She then became the Co-Director of the Political Participation Group at the storied NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 2006. This was followed by her groundbreaking work at the New York State Attorney General's Office where she served as the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau. While leading that venerable office, Ms. Clarke achieved long-lasting results, tackling issues such as tenant harassment, registration barriers faced by students who had limited English proficiency, disability access, religious discrimination, sexual harassment in blue-collar industries and more. She further led, and skillfully handled, a variety of cases dealing with voting rights, fair housing, and education equity.

Ms. Clarke was then tapped to become the President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which was founded in 1963 following a call from President John F. Kennedy for lawyers to mobilize to combat discrimination in the deep south. That call from President Kennedy followed a summer in 1963 when protests over illegal discriminatory practices and segregation in education, employment, voting participation, and public accommodations were occurring in Alabama, but then-Governor George Wallace vowed to disobey court-ordered desegregation at its state university, leading attorneys to call for the Governor and elected officials to adhere to the rule of law.

Ms. Clarke has skillfully led the Lawyers' Committee since 2016. This national, non-partisan organization has championed a wide range of civil rights litigation, such as on voting rights, hate crimes, fair housing, and educational opportunities. Ms. Clarke has led a Board composed of over 200 of the nation's most preeminent lawyers, brought together thousands of legal volunteers, and partnered with hundreds of private law firms to commence (and defend against) legal proceedings to promote the rule of law and civil rights, just as President John F. Kennedy envisioned over 57 years ago. Ms. Clarke has pioneered this nationwide effort as its leader, and she has been at the forefront of harnessing the legal community to uphold the rule of law on behalf of vulnerable populations. This enterprising work, in addition to the depth and breadth of Ms. Clarke's legal experience, make her supremely qualified to lead the dedicated professionals of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Since the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division was created in 1957, it has dramatically grown in both size and scope, and its work is now carried out by eleven different sections, including its criminal section, employment litigation section, housing and civil enforcement section, and its voting section. This is a critical time in our nation's history, when violent extremism is on the rise, hate crimes against vulnerable communities are more commonplace, and our institutions have been undermined by disinformation and chaos. The Civil Rights Division will play a key role in addressing these pressing issues and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations. Ms. Clarke's experience, in addition to her high character, make her a superior choice to lead that important Division.

We urge the Committee to quickly process Ms. Clarke's nomination and the Senate to expeditiously vote to confirm her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Eric Holder

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

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

Jamie S. Gorelick

Deputy Attorney General, 1994 – 1997

Gary G. Grindler

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

Stuart M. Gerson

Acting Attorney General of the United States, 1993; Assistant Attorney General, 1989 – 1993, U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia, 1972 – 1975

Donald Ayer

Deputy Attorney General, 1989 – 1990; Principal Deputy Solicitor General, 1986 – 1988; U.S. Attorney, E. District of California, 1982 – 1986

David W. Ogden

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

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.

Solicitor General, 2011 – 2016

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Seth Waxman

Solicitor General, 1997 – 2001

Walter E. Dellinger III

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

Daniel Marcus

Associate Attorney General, 2000 – 2001

John Schmidt

Associate Attorney General, 1993 – 1997

Tony West

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

Bill Baer

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

Kenneth Wainstein

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

A. Brian Albritton

U.S. Attorney, Middle District of Florida,
2008 – 2010

Gregory A. Brower

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

Richard G. Callahan

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

Paul K. Charlton

U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona,
2001 – 2007

Tristram Coffin

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

Michael W. Cotter

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

Gregory Davis

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

Steven Dettelbach

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

Conner Eldridge

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

David Fein

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

Wifredo Ferrer

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

Deborah R. Gilg

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

Jonathan L. Goldstein

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

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Booth Goodwin

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

Timothy J. Heaphy

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

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

William C. Killian

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

Neil MacBride

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

Damon P. Martinez

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

Jan Paul Miller

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

Bill Nettles

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

Carmen M. Ortiz

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

Barry R. Grissom

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

John Horn

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

Brendan V. Johnson

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

David N. Kelley

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

James A. Lewis

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

Ronald C. Machen, Jr.

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

Barbara L. McQuade

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

Peter F. Neronha

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

Wendy Olson

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

Matt Orwig

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

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Kenneth Polite

U.S. Attorney, E. District of Louisiana,
2013 – 2017

Tim Purdon

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

Carole S. Rendon

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

Carter Stewart

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

Edward J. Tarver

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

Kevin W. Techau

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

Anne M. Tompkins

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

Joyce White Vance

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

John W. Vaudreuil

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

John Walsh

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

Debra Wong Yang

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