

February 18, 2021

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

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

Re: Nomination of Lisa O. Monaco as Deputy Attorney General of the United States

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are former senior officials of the Department of Justice – Attorneys General, Deputy Attorneys General, Associate Attorneys General and Solicitors General – who have served Democratic and Republican presidents over several decades. We write to urge the confirmation of Lisa Monaco to be Deputy Attorney General.

Ms. Monaco's over twenty years of public service well qualify her for the role of Deputy Attorney General. At the outset of her career, she was Counsel to Attorney General Janet Reno, so she saw first-hand, from the beginning of her career, the challenges in running this large and complex Department. She also has been a line prosecutor, serving as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where she prosecuted public corruption and fraud cases as well as violent crime. And she was selected as one of the lead prosecutors on the Enron Task Force. From these experiences, she learned of the vitally important role of the lawyers who serve Justice on the front lines.

Ms. Monaco also has worked at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, one of the Department's most critical components. She was Counsel to and then Chief of Staff to Director Robert S. Mueller, III, and assisted him as he accelerated the progress of the Bureau to become a key element of the country's national security community.

In the Obama Administration, Ms. Monaco returned to the Department as Associate Deputy Attorney General and then Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, where she was the primary advisor to the Deputy Attorney General. She could have had no better perch for learning the job of Deputy Attorney General, as she participated in key decisions of the sort that she will confront if she is confirmed as Deputy. She helped the then-Deputy Attorney General in the oversight of all the US Attorneys' Offices as well as the other litigating and non-litigating components of the Department.

Ms. Monaco went on to head the National Security Division of the Department, where she oversaw national security investigations and worked very closely with the intelligence community. It was a natural step, then, for President Obama to ask her to become his Homeland Security Advisor – the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism – a role in which she helped our country prepare for and respond to an incredible range of threats to our safety and well-being.

These experiences – as well as Ms. Monaco’s time in private practice and in teaching – prepare her extremely well to be Deputy Attorney General. So, too, do Ms. Monaco’s personal qualities: she has the values, temperament, and strength to perform at the highest level of the Department. Each of us knows how demanding this job is, with its extraordinary span of control and the need for strong and principled leadership. We believe that Ms. Monaco is highly qualified for this role. She knows the Department from nearly every angle. She understands the job. And she has prepared well for it.

We urge her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States (2005-
2007)

Loretta Lynch
Attorney General of the United States (2015 –
2017)

Stuart M. Gerson
Acting Attorney General of the United States
(1993)

Donald Ayer
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(1989-90)

Carol E. Dinkins
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(1984-85)

Jamie S. Gorelick
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(1994 – 1997)

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States (2009-
2015)
Deputy Attorney General (1997-2001)

Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General of the United States, 2007 –
2009

Peter Keisler
Acting Attorney General of the United States
(2007)

James M. Cole
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2010 – 2015)

Mark R. Filip
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2008 – 2009)

David W. Ogden
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2009 – 2010)

Rod Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2017- 2019)

Larry D. Thompson
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2001 – 2003)

Sally Q. Yates
Deputy Attorney General of the United States
(2015 – 2017)

Gary G. Grindler
Acting Deputy Attorney General of the United
States (2010)

Edward C. O’Callaghan
Acting Deputy Attorney General (May 2019)

Wayne Budd
Associate Attorney General, 1992 – 1993;

Daniel Marcus
Associate Attorney General of the United States
(2000-2001)

Kevin J. O’Connor
Associate Attorney General of the United States
(2008-09)

Thomas J. Perrelli
Associate Attorney General of the United States
(2009-2012)

William Baer
Acting Associate Attorney General of the United
States (2016-2017)

John Schmidt
Associate Attorney General, 1994 – 1997

Tony West
Associate Attorney General of the United States
(2012-2014)

Theodore B. Olson
Solicitor General of the United States (2001-
2004)

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.
Solicitor General of the United States (2011-
2016)

Seth P Waxman
Solicitor General of the United States (1997-
2001)

Walter Dellinger
Acting Solicitor General of the United States
(1996-1997)

Neal Kumar Katyal
Acting Solicitor General of the United States
(2010-2011)