

February 3rd, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Reginald Babin, Chief Counsel, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer
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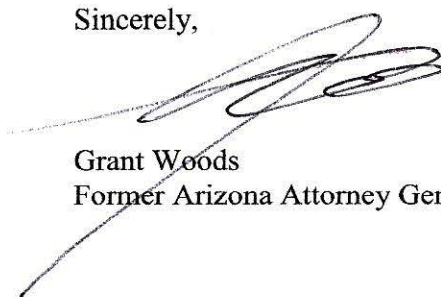
Phillip Brest, Chief Nominations Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard J. Durbin
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Michael Fragoso, Chief Nominations Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley
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Gentlemen;

Please see the enclosed letter submitted for your consideration from myself and Former Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa.

Sincerely,



Grant Woods
Former Arizona Attorney General 1991-1999

GW:seb
Enclosure

February 1, 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 the U.S. Department of Justice Nominees

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

We write in strong support of President Biden's nominees to the U.S. Department of Justice: Judge Merrick Garland for Attorney General, Lisa Monaco as Deputy Attorney General, Vanita Gupta as Associate Attorney General, and Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

We are former State Attorneys General in each of our respective states, who belonged to both Republican and Democratic parties. Many of us served for multiple terms, operating as the chief statewide law enforcement officials in our states, bringing criminal and civil enforcement actions to protect our citizens and the public fisc, and defending our states in federal and state courts.

We often worked with the U.S. Department of Justice and senior officials (including the Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, and Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division) under both Republican and Democratic Administrations, and believe that the slate of Justice Department nominees announced by President Biden represent outstanding selections of individuals who have sterling reputations and leadership qualities that will meet the mission of the Justice Department.

Judge Merrick Garland is well known to many of us, not just through his reputation as a fair-minded judge, but also through his work as a senior Justice Department official during the Oklahoma City bombing investigation/prosecution, which required close coordination among

federal, state, and local authorities. Judge Garland's skillful and wise leadership over that investigation team was exemplary of how federal, state, and local authorities can work towards a common goal on behalf of public safety for the American people.

Lisa Monaco similarly is a well-known public servant, who has devoted her life to public safety and protecting our national security. She served with distinction as the Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division, and in senior positions within the Federal Bureau of Investigation and as a homeland security advisor. She is a professional through and through -- who has worked hand in hand with law enforcement and intelligence personnel to keep our cities and states safe.

Vanita Gupta is a gifted national leader who has developed credibility with law enforcement leaders and civil rights leaders, and she too is an outstanding selection to assume the Associate Attorney General position within the Justice Department. Because of her extensive work and ability to build strong relationships with local leaders, she has demonstrated a keen understanding of building coalitions and promoting greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. We welcome her leadership at the Justice Department.

Kristen Clarke is someone with immense credibility among community leaders in each of our states -- she has handled cases of hate crimes, constitutional policing, human trafficking, and voting rights, and, most recently, has done effective work on violent extremism and the threat that it poses to our citizens. Clarke further worked in a leadership position within the New York State Attorney General's office, leading the Civil Rights Bureau there -- where she led a religious rights initiative as well as other civil rights initiatives on behalf of the State. We are further proud that she is an alumnus of a State Attorney General's office.

We urge the Committee to quickly process the Justice Department nominees and urge the Senate to quickly confirm these outstanding nominees. We have been alarmed at recent efforts to undermine the rule of law and our democratic institutions, at both the state and federal level. We firmly believe that the credibility, independence, and devotion to the rule of law that these Justice Department nominees have exhibited throughout their professional and personal lives will help garner greater faith in our institutions going forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Grant Woods
Arizona Attorney General 1991-98

Frankie Sue Del Papa
Nevada Attorney General 1990-2002

Robert Abrams
NY Attorney General, 1979-93

Ron Amemiya
HI Attorney General 1974-1978

Doug Baily
AK Attorney General, 1989-91

Thurbert Baker
GA Attorney General, 1997-2010

Senator Richard Blumenthal
CT Attorney General, 1991-2011

Bruce Botelho
AK Attorney General, 1994-2002

Roland Burris
IL Attorney General, 1991-95

Bob Butterworth
FL Attorney General, 1987-2002

Bonnie J. Campbell
IA Attorney General, 1991-95

Pamela Carter
IN Attorney General, 1992-1996

Ben Chandler
KY Attorney General, 1996-2004

Steve Clark
AR Attorney General, 1979-1990

Mike Cody
TN Attorney General, 1984-1988

Walter Cohen
PA Attorney General, 1995

Jack Conway
KY Attorney General, 2008-16

Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
TN Attorney General , 2006-2014

Richard Cordray
OH Attorney General, 2009-11

Fred Cowan
KY Attorney General , 1988-1992

J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
MD Attorney General, 1987-2006

M. Jerome Diamond
VT Attorney General, 1975-81

Rufus Edmisten
NC Attorney General, 1974-84

Drew Edmondson
OK Attorney General, 1995-2011

John J. Farmer Jr.
NJ former Attorney General, 1999-2002

Lee Fisher
OH Attorney General, 1991-95

Douglas Gansler
MD Attorney General, 2007-15

Terry Goddard
AZ Attorney General, 2003-11

Chris Gorman
KY Attorney General, 1992-96

Governor Christine Gregoire
WA Attorney General, 1993-2005

Neil Hartigan
IL Attorney General, 1983-91

Peter C. Harvey
NJ Attorney General, 2003-06

Mike Hatch
MN Attorney General, 1999-2007

Senator Heidi Heitkamp
ND Attorney General, 1993-2001

Jim Hood
MS Attorney General, 2004-20

Hubert H. Humphrey III
MN Attorney General, 1982-98

Richard Ieyoub
LA Attorney General, 1992-2003

George Jepsen
CT Attorney General, 2011-19

Jim Jones
ID Attorney General, 1983-91

Peter Kilmartin
RI Attorney General, 2011-19

Senator Joseph Lieberman
CT Attorney General, 1983-89

Jahna Lindemuth
AK Attorney General 2016-18

Bill Lockyer
CA Attorney General, 1999-2007

David Louie
HI Attorney General, 2011-14

Lisa Madigan
IL Attorney General, 2003-19

Patricia Madrid
NM Attorney General, 1998-2006

Dustin McDaniel
AR Attorney General 2007-2015

Brian McKay
NV Attorney General 1983-1990

V. Frank Mendicino
WY Attorney General, 1975-78

Anne Milgram
NJ Attorney General, 2007-10

Tom Miller
IA Attorney General, 1979-91 and 1995-present

Governor Janet Mills
ME Attorney General , 2009-2011; 2013-2019

Jeff Modisett
IN Attorney General, 1997-2000

Mike Moore
MS Attorney General, 1987-2003

Governor Janet Napolitano
AZ Attorney General, 1999-2003

Irving B. Nathan
DC Attorney General, 2011-15

Charlie Oberly III
DE Attorney General, 1983-95

Clarine Nardi Riddle
CT Attorney General, 1989-91

Hector Reichard
PR Attorney General, 1981-83

Stephen Rosenthal
VA Attorney General, 1993-94

Senator Ken Salazar
CO Attorney General, 1999-2005

James Shannon
MA Attorney General, 1987-91

Mark Shurtleff
UT Attorney General, 2001-13

Governor Don Siegelman
AL Attorney General, 1987-91

Gregory Smith
NH Attorney General, 1980-84

Robert J. Spagnoletti
DC Attorney General, 2003-06

Lori Swanson
MN Attorney General, 2007-19

Mary Sue Terry
VA Attorney General, 1986-93

James Tierney
ME Attorney General, 1980-90

Duane Woodard
CO Attorney General, 1983-1991

James Zazzali
NJ Attorney General, 1981-82