



March 23, 2021

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

Support the Confirmation of Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

On behalf of the leadership and board members of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Colorado Lawyers Committee, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston, Mississippi Center for Justice, Public Counsel, The Public Interest Law Center, and the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, we write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Kristen Clarke to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Our non-partisan, independently funded and governed organizations were formed beginning in the late 1960s as local committees of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Since

our inception we have harnessed the pro bono support of the private bar to advance civil rights and work towards greater equity and justice under the legal system. Our organizations and the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law collaborate to strengthen the largest network of private lawyers in America directed primarily to civil rights issues, working together on legal strategy, litigation, national and state public policy issues. We have worked closely with Ms. Clarke as the Lawyers' Committee president and executive director since 2016, and in that capacity, Ms. Clarke has demonstrated her incredible skill as one of the most talented civil rights attorneys of our time.

Ms. Clarke will bring an unprecedented breadth of civil rights litigation experience and civil rights leadership to the division. Her 20 years of experience is unparalleled in both scope and skill. At the start of her career, she enforced civil rights laws for six years in the administration of President George W. Bush, including as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. Further, in 2006, Ms. Clarke directed the voting rights project at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, founded by Thurgood Marshall. In 2011, she was appointed as the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in the New York Office of the Attorney General. During her career, she has done groundbreaking and courageous work encompassing virtually every area of civil rights, including voting rights, equal educational opportunity, fair housing and lending, equal employment, economic justice, environmental justice, online hate speech, and criminal justice reform.

If confirmed, Ms. Clarke would become the first woman to lead the Division since it was created in 1957, and the first Black woman to hold the post in any capacity. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance Ms. Clarke's nomination as quickly as possible, and for the Senate to confirm her. We are confident that the Justice Department and the nation would benefit tremendously from her decades of distinguished leadership and expertise in the field of civil rights.

Sincerely,

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Bonnie Allen, Executive Director

Colorado Lawyers Committee

Constance C. Talmage, Executive Director

Aaron Boschee, Board Member, Denver, CO

Katayoun Donnelly, Board Member, Denver, CO

T.A. Taylor-Hunt, Board Member, Denver, CO

Blain Myhre, Board Member, Centennial, CO

Susan Boothby, Board Member, Boulder, CO

Rich Harris, Board Member, Denver, CO

Camila Palmer, Board Member, Denver, CO

Iris Eytan, Board Member, Denver, CO

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Monika Kalra Varma, Executive Director

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Loren Kieve, Board Member, San Francisco, CA
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Jacob Sorensen, Board Member, San Francisco, CA
Amy Tovar, Board Member, San Francisco, CA

Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston

Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director

Mississippi Center for Justice

Vangela M. Wade, Executive Director, Jackson, MI

David Lipman, Board Member, Miami, FL

Public Counsel, Los Angeles, CA

The Public Interest Law Center

Brenda L. Marrero, Executive Director

Ellen S. Friedell, Board Member, Philadelphia, PA

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Jonathan Smith, Executive Director, Washington, DC