

**Ariel Levinson-Waldman**  
6338 32nd Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20015

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

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

I am writing in support of the nomination of Kristen Clarke to serve as U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

I have known Kristen since 2006. I first worked closely with her when I was a lawyer in private representing the Texas NAACP and she was a lawyer at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and we were each representing clients in defense of key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I later had the opportunity to work closely with her when she was working in the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New York, and I was serving in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and we collaborated on a number of multi-jurisdiction issues connected to civil rights. I have also most recently had the opportunity to talk with her in our current professional settings. Kristen has been serving and excelling as President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. And since 2017, I have served as the Founding President of Tzedek DC, a nonprofit organization that arose out of a fellowship granted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington with the mission of safeguarding the rights and interests of DC residents of all faiths and backgrounds with lower incomes who are facing debt-related problems. In this context, I had the opportunity, among other things, to attend a small group meeting with her organized by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

On the basis of those experiences over the last fifteen years, I am writing in my personal capacity to say with confidence that Kristen will be an outstanding leader of the Civil Rights Division, and will, as she has consistently done, work to vindicate the civil rights of all Americans. In particular, I want to respond to questions raised before this Committee recently: as a proud American Jew who has known Kristen for a decade and a half and worked closely with her in multiple settings, I reject any suggestions that she is an anti-Semite. I note as well that there is no evidence in her record to suggest otherwise. I join the chorus of American Jews who urge swift confirmation of this principled and talented leader to be the U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Thank you for considering my views.



Ariel Levinson-Waldman