

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Charles B. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr. to be the
Assistant Attorney General for the United States
Department of Justice's Criminal Division**

Dear Senators Schumer, McConnell, Durbin, and Grassley:

As members of New Orleans' faith community we have had the opportunity to work with Kenneth Polite during his tenure as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. As Kenneth is a native of New Orleans many of us have had the opportunity to witness his commitment to his family and observe the talent and values that set him apart as exemplary lawyer and leader. This letter is submitted in support of his nomination to be the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Integrity and professionalism are no doubt qualities required and expected of any public servant. It is especially true for so distinguished a position as Assistant Attorney General of our country. Mr. Polite possesses these qualities in abundance as is apparent from his history and particularly his contributions and record as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana from 2013-17.

However, there are other qualities and values that we find necessary, especially at this critical time in our country. Specifically, Mr. Polite's commitment to the principle that ultimately the many issues related to crime and violence are not the responsibility of government alone but require the collaboration of a united community. Mr. Polite's work to build partnerships between law enforcement and the residents they serve, and in particular, his willingness to forge working relationships with the faith community clearly demonstrate this commitment. He worked to successfully attack drug trafficking and the gang and gun violence that terrorized our community while leading efforts focused on youth most at risk of becoming homicide victims. Mr. Polite's establishment of the Crescent City Keepers initiative

created an opportunity for area communities of faith to partner with the U.S. Attorney's Office as mentors to vulnerable youth with the goal of saving lives. In addition to addressing the violent crime that has plagued our city for years and his dedication to crime prevention, Kenneth established a public integrity unit and assured transparency between the public and those who protect and serve them.

For many years our city had the shameful distinction of nearly always being among the most violent cities in our country. Without question Kenneth Polite left this city and region a far safer and better place, and he made the U. S. Attorney's Office for Southeast Louisiana a model of excellence for the country.

The Department of Justice is where the American people place their ultimate hopes and expectations for a fair and peaceful country. It is where we expect to find the finest attorneys and the most conscientious public servants. Kenneth has proven that he is among the best of those lawyers and we are confident that he is the best choice to lead the Criminal Division and serve America at a time of new criminal threats and challenges. We know that Kenneth Polite will continue to inspire law enforcement with forward-looking strategies that unite them with the public that they serve. He is the right person for the job that needs to be done.

We prayerfully urge the confirmation of Kenneth Polite as the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Most Reverend Gregory Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Reverend Patrick J. Williams
Pastor, St. Pius X Catholic Church
and Vicar General
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Rev. C.S. Gordon, Jr.
Pastor, New Zion Baptist Church

Superintendent Ernest Dison, Sr.
Pastor, St. Paul Church of God
in Christ

Rev. Dr. J. C. Dyson, Sr.
President, Ideal Missionary Baptist
and Educational Association

Most Reverend Fernand J. Cheri, III
O.F.M. Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans

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Reverend Fred Luter
Pastor,
Franklin Avenue
Baptist Church

Rafeeq H. NuMan
Senior & Resident
Islamic Association of New Orleans

Very Reverend Bill Terry
Rector, St. Anna's Episcopal Church

Sr. Bonnie Jean Sniegowski, S.N.D.
Sisters of Notre Dam

Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry
Presiding Elder
Oakland/San Jonquin District
California Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Sr. Theresa Rooney, CHF
Sisters of the Holy Family

Sr. Sylvia Thibodeaux, S.S.F.
Sisters of the Holy Family

Reverend Joe Connelly
Bethany United Methodist Church

Sr. Greta Jupiter
Sisters of the Holy Family

Rev. Louis Arceneaux, C.M.
Congregation of the Mission,
Western Province, USA

Sr. Mary Lou Specha, PBVM
Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Reverend Daniel H. Green
Pastor, St. Maria Goretti Catholic
Church

Sr. Judy Zynda, OP
Adrian Dominican Sisters

Supt. John E. Pierre, Pastor
Greater Living Witness Sanctuary
Church of God in Christ

Sr. Maura O'Donovan, CHF
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Bishop Willie L. Cage
Prelate South Central Louisiana
Church of God in Christ

Sr. Mary Pauline O'Reilly C.H.F.
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Sr. Julie Marsh, PBVM
Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Joe Givens
Executive Director
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