



March 30, 2021

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

CK Hoffler  
*President & CEO*  
*Atlanta, GA*

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*President-Elect*  
*Grenada, MS*

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*Vice President of*  
*Sections & Divisions*  
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*Vice President of*  
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Ashley Upkins  
*Secretary*  
*Nashville, TN*

Nicholas Austin  
*Treasurer*  
*Washington, DC*

I write to you as the 78th President of the National Bar Association ( the "NBA"). The NBA is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. Our organization represents the interests of approximately 66,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. On behalf of the NBA, I am pleased to offer our support for the confirmation of Vanita Gupta for Associate Attorney General at the Justice Department and, Kristen Clarke as U.S. Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department. Both nominees are imminently qualified and are exceptional lawyers. Although the NBA has endorsed several letters relating to the nomination of both Clarke and Gupta, I felt it important to send a separate letter at this time to express our unwavering support of their candidacy, in light of the unrelenting tension and merciless accusations launched against them in the ongoing confirmation proceedings in the United States Senate.

Vanita Gupta is an experienced leader and litigator who has devoted her entire career to civil rights work. Ms. Gupta formerly served as Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. As the chief civil rights prosecutor for the United States, Gupta oversaw a wide range of criminal and civil enforcement efforts to ensure equal justice and to protect equal opportunity for all during one of the most consequential periods for the division. Under Gupta's leadership, the division did critical work in several areas, including advancing constitutional policing and criminal justice reform; prosecuting hate crimes and human trafficking; promoting disability rights; protecting the rights of LGBTQ individuals; ensuring voting rights for all; and combating discrimination in education, housing, employment, lending, and religious exercise. She regularly engaged with a broad range of stakeholders in the course of this work. Her experience, her intellectual capacity and her proven track-record in working at the Justice Department make her an ideal choice for Associate Attorney General at the Justice Department.

NBA member Kristen Clarke is simply exceptional on all fronts. Her educational background, work experience, community engagement, civil and human rights' track-records are virtually unassailable. In college and law school, she was a champion for civil rights and human rights and her work experience further cemented her excellence in these areas. In fact, she brings a broader array of civil rights experience to the role than any nominee before her. During her tenure at the New York Attorney General's Office, she launched a Religious Rights Initiative and worked to secure accommodations for employees in multiple workplaces to observe the Sabbath.

As the head of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, she has partnered with Jewish organizations and has spoken up against hate toward our community and other religious minorities. It is worth noting that Clarke would not only be the first Black woman confirmed to lead the Civil Rights Division, but she would be the first woman confirmed to lead it at all since it was created in 1957. But, it is her passion for civil and human rights which make her an outstanding nominee for this position.

As you are aware, both nominees have received letters of support from a broad, bipartisan coalition of former department officials and law enforcement groups. They represent what America stands for: advocacy at its best, and sheer excellence. As this country continues the process of healing, the NBA challenges you to live by your commitment to fairness and integrity as you move through the nominations process and confirm 2 of the more stellar and imminently qualified candidates that this country has bred, raised and groomed for greatness.

I am proud to submit this letter on behalf of National Bar Association and am available to answer any questions regarding our undying support of these nominees.

Sincerely,



Tricia "CK" Hoffler  
78<sup>th</sup> President  
National Bar Association