



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority 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 Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

I am writing this letter in support of Kristen Clarke, the President's nominee to serve as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division.

I am the President and Founder of the non-partisan Campaign Legal Center (CLC), which works to protect the right to vote for all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. I previously served as a Republican Commissioner and Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). In private practice I have also served as the General Counsel of Republican Presidential campaigns and represented a number of Republican candidates and committees.

CLC is extremely familiar with Ms. Clarke's professional record, but perhaps more importantly, CLC is deeply familiar with who Ms. Clarke is as a person. She is one of the foremost legal experts in the country on voting rights -- having begun her career in the Voting Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and later having led the voting rights project at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She is smart, honest, and deeply committed to equal justice under law. She works well with people, looks at all sides of an issue, listens to opposing views, and is always ready to learn. She is the right candidate to lead the Civil Rights Division at this critical moment in our history.

During her tenure as President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Ms. Clarke has been an outstanding partner with CLC in our efforts to advance voting rights and voting protections for all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. Our two organizations have worked together on a number of important voting rights cases. And, as a result of Ms. Clarke's leadership, the reputation and output of the Lawyers' Committee has grown considerably over the past seven years. Ms. Clarke has indeed been a committed and steadfast partner to advance the rule of law and promote voting rights and election security.

While Ms. Clarke has an impressive array of accomplishments with respect to voting rights, she is equally accomplished in so many areas that also fall under the portfolio of the Civil Rights Division. From housing and civil enforcement, disability rights, educational opportunities, and special litigation, Ms. Clarke has an incredible record of effective leadership that dates back to her time in public service at the N.Y. Attorney General's office, as well as during her tenure as the President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee.

In short, Ms. Clarke possesses an unparalleled legal and professional record for any nominee to lead the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. She deserves the support of every Senator, and I applaud the President's decision to nominate her to such an important position.

I urge you and your colleagues to swiftly process Ms. Clarke's nomination, and vote to confirm her as the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Thank you for your consideration.



Trevor Potter

Republican former FEC Chairman and FEC Commissioner