

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair
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 Senators Durbin and Grassley,

As leaders of youth-serving community-based organizations in New Orleans, we write in support of Kenneth Polite's appointment to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Throughout his life, Mr. Polite has exemplified the role of public servant. As the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana from 2013 to 2017, Mr. Polite prioritized efficiency, transparency, and community collaboration. While focusing the office's prosecutorial efforts on violent crime, public corruption, and civil rights violations, Mr. Polite also championed efforts to promote prevention and reentry programs as critical tools for public safety.

While in office, Mr. Polite established Project LEAD, the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence, and the Crescent City Keepers mentors initiative, all with the goal of preventing and reducing youth violence. As practitioners in the field of positive youth development, we know that the factors contributing to youth violence in our communities are complex, a tangled mixture of personal circumstances, social systems, and economic barriers. Mr. Polite has demonstrated his ability to work within this complexity to make positive change by building diverse coalitions of stakeholders, public and private interests, and concerned citizens.

Through his service, Mr. Polite has built trust, goodwill, and deep relationships in the public and private sectors. Currently, Mr. Polite is a board member for Youth Empowerment Project, an organization dedicated to empowering young people to improve their lives and the lives of others. He also serves on the boards of Ochsner Health System, the Anti-Defamation League, and New Schools for New Orleans.

In the private sector, Mr. Polite has served as the Chief Compliance Officer for Entergy Corporation, overseeing the company's ethics and compliance program. At present, he is a partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, working in the White Collar Criminal Defense and Global Investigations Group. He has also served as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, as a partner at Liskow & Lewis, and a clerk for the Honorable Thomas L. Ambro of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

After graduating as valedictorian of De La Salle High School in New Orleans, Mr. Polite went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, graduating *cum laude*. He was also awarded an honorary degree from Loyola University Law School.

Through his impressive range and depth of experience, Mr. Polite has demonstrated his skill and ability. Of equal importance, he has also demonstrated his dedication to and belief in the role of justice in our society. We are confident that Mr. Polite will continue to serve this nation in a manner that strives to make justice equally accessible to all, regardless of station or race or gender. As leaders of youth-serving organizations in New Orleans, we would be proud to see Mr. Polite assume this new role, continuing his lifetime of distinguished public service.



Melissa Sawyer
CEO & Co-Founder, Youth Empowerment Project

CEOs and Executive Directors of the following community-based nonprofit organizations:

Luis Arocha, Executive Director
Café Hope

Danielle Wright, Division Director
Navigate NOLA

Rheneisha Robertson, Executive Director
Covenant House

Rashida Govan, Ph.D., Executive Director
**New Orleans Youth Alliance & Project
Butterfly New Orleans**

Patricia Watson, Executive Director
Family Center of Hope

Gerald Duhon, Executive Director
Reconcile New Orleans

Keith H. Liederman, Ph.D., CEO
Kingsley House

Lloyd H. Dennis, Jr, Co-Founder & CFO
Gregory Rattler, Jr., CEO
Silverback Society

Dennis Bagneris, CEO
Liberty's Kitchen

Bivian "Sonny" Lee, III, Founder & CEO
Son of a Saint

Jack Carey, Founder
Live Oak Wilderness Camp

Gordon R. Wadge, President & CEO
YMCA of Greater New Orleans

Ryan Mattingly, Executive Director
Louisiana Green Corps