

April 7, 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

Re: Nomination of Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice

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

We serve as General Counsel for a broad range of businesses in the United States and we write in support of the nomination of Kristen Clarke for the position of Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Many of us have had the privilege of knowing and working with Ms. Clarke over the course of her career. Those of us who haven't had that opportunity have familiarized ourselves with Ms. Clarke's qualifications, as well as the positions she has taken on issues, including those of interest to the business community.

The need for a strong leader with Ms. Clarke's stature at the helm of the Civil Rights Division is an imperative, especially at this moment. The global pandemic has affected communities of color in ways that compel us to understand and challenge how structural issues in our society could produce such a disproportionate impact. The horrifying events of January 6th revealed the vulnerability of our democratic institutions. And the convulsive response across the country to the death of George Floyd made plain the imperative that we must re-dedicate ourselves to improving legal protections for underserved communities.

These events have created a defining moment in the history of our nation and a critical need for leaders who have a deep understanding of the civil rights laws and the communities they protect. Getting this right is of crucial importance to our businesses. Our employees and our customers place growing importance on ensuring that every American has access to the ballot, that all Americans enjoy equal justice and opportunity, and that our democratic institutions remain vibrant.

These issues will be directly impacted by who serves as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division. As General Counsels who believe in the rule of law, we care about who

sits in this seat. We strongly believe Kristen Clarke is the right leader for this moment. She is a proven civil rights leader who will not only help the country navigate complex civil rights issues, but she will also listen to a full range of views to help forge inclusive solutions.

Ms. Clarke has dedicated her career to advancing equity and justice. She is known for her effectiveness as a consensus builder, bringing people with disparate views together to forge a way forward. She has used this skill to lead non-partisan efforts to protect voting rights and promote election integrity, marshaling the resources of the legal community to ensure that all Americans, regardless of their political affiliation, have access to the ballot. She has fought against forms of violent extremism that have fomented hate, including prosecuting hate crimes. She has worked to address religious rights issues in the workplace and enforced anti-discrimination laws. She has worked tirelessly to protect Dreamers and DACA. As a daughter of immigrants herself, Ms. Clarke understands and appreciates immigrant contributions to American innovation, the American economy, and the American dream.

Ms. Clarke's career began as a lawyer in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. She then worked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and later served as Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office. For the last five years as President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Ms. Clarke has been deeply involved in cases involving the full range of issues within the scope of the Civil Rights Division. Ms. Clarke brings the greatest depth and breadth of civil rights experience of any nominee to the position since it was created in 1957.

We strongly believe Ms. Clarke is the right person to lead the Civil Rights Division at this critical moment in time. Her work as a lawyer, an administrator, and a civil rights leader has prepared her to guide the work of the Division with steadiness and passion. Only with this kind of leadership will it be able to fully realize its mission to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans.

We encourage the prompt confirmation of Ms. Clarke to lead the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours¹,

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¹ Business names and titles are provided for identification purposes only.

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