

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: Letter in Support of Kristen Clarke, nominee for Assistant Attorney General
for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice

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

We write to urge the Senate to quickly confirm Kristen Clarke to become the 19th
Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of
Justice.

We serve as managing partners and chairpersons of law firms throughout the country, and
oversee lawyers across practice areas who are at the senior-most levels to the junior-most
levels, striving to provide our clients with zealous advocacy and sound legal counsel. Our
commitment to our clients, to courts, and to adversaries in our legal system is driven by a
steadfast belief in unbiased application of the rule of law. We write in support of Ms.
Clarke because we have seen in practice that she is driven by the same belief.

This commitment to the rule of law is how the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Under Law (the "Lawyers' Committee") – the nonpartisan organization that Ms. Clarke
now leads – was first formed in 1963. Then-President John F. Kennedy made a call for
private lawyers to mobilize to promote the rule of law and utilize legal services to combat
discrimination in the deep south. The call to the private bar in 1963 came on the heels of
acts by then-Alabama-Governor George Wallace to maintain illegal discriminatory
practices and segregation in education, employment, and voting participation. The
Lawyers' Committee was formed to squarely confront those illegal actions, and the

organization has since continued to be one of the leading civil rights organizations in the country.

Ms. Clarke has led the Lawyers' Committee with extraordinary skill, integrity, and wisdom since assuming the leadership mantle of the organization in 2016. Under her steady leadership, the organization has been at the forefront of some of the most impactful civil rights litigation in the country today, tackling issues ranging from voting rights, online solicitation of hate and violence, and educational opportunity.

Ms. Clarke has not only overseen the organization's impact litigation, but she also has masterfully led a Board comprising over 200 prominent lawyers in America, and has helped bring together thousands of legal professionals and hundreds of the most prominent law firms in America to provide legal services to protect the rule of law and serve vulnerable clients in need of representation. One such area in which hundreds of law firms, including ours, and corporate legal departments, have participated is the Lawyers' Committee's work on election protection and voting rights. Under Ms. Clarke's leadership, the Lawyers' Committee helped train and deploy over 13,000 attorney volunteers who staffed over 46,000 national voter hotline shifts to assist voters as part of last year's non-partisan election protection effort, and mobilized 200 national, state, and local partners to work year-round to ensure that all voters in all states have an equal opportunity to vote and that the ballots of eligible voters are counted.

Those efforts are simply unquantifiable in terms of overall impact. They also point to how Ms. Clarke has been able to brilliantly harness the talent and passion of private lawyers all across America to protect the right to vote, and to ensure that the law is applied and enforced equally and justly.

Ms. Clarke has now been nominated by the President to lead the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department, an office charged to uphold the civil and constitutional rights for all. We can think of no better lawyer in the country to lead that office in this important time in our nation's history. Ms. Clarke herself is an alumna of that office, having begun her extraordinary career there, and is well-suited to lead the professionals there with dignity, integrity, and independence. We have no doubt that she will continue to bring her brilliance, her thoughtful deliberation, and her vision for a more equal and just America to that office.

We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly process Ms. Clarke's nomination, and for the Senate to expeditiously confirm her.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Alexander
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