



April 13, 2021

United State Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee:

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) writes in support of the confirmation of Kristen Clarke to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

NCLR is a national public interest law firm that litigates precedent-setting cases at the trial and appellate court levels, advocates for equitable public policies affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community, provides free legal assistance to LGBTQ people and their advocates, and conducts community education on LGBTQ issues. NCLR has been advancing the civil and human rights of LGBTQ people and their families across the United States through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education since its founding in 1977. As a civil rights organization, we understand the critical role of the Department of Justice, and particularly the Civil Rights Division, and the need for strong leadership at the agency's highest levels. Ms. Clarke embodies the kind of leadership that we need at this time.

Ms. Clarke's career and her many accomplishments make her well-suited for the role for which she has been nominated. In addition to serving in the Justice Department early in her career, she has championed civil rights in her other roles, including at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Civil Rights Bureau in the New York State Attorney General's Office, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

We know that as head of the Civil Rights Division Ms. Clarke will be a stalwart defender of equality for everyone, including the LGBTQ community. She has shown this through her career-long commitment to civil rights for all, and through leading an amicus brief on behalf of the Lawyers' Committee in the landmark *Bostock v. Clayton County* case that established federal employment discrimination protections for LGBTQ people. We enthusiastically support her nomination not only because of her demonstrated support for the civil equality of LGBTQ people, but also because she is eminently well-equipped to confront the myriad other pressing civil rights issues facing our country, including racial and gender justice and voting rights. We are confident she will be a voice for all people and will diligently endeavor to ensure that every person in this country has an equal chance to participate and contribute.

We urge the committee to advance, and the entire Senate to swiftly confirm, Kristen Clarke to the position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

If you require additional information, please contact Julie Gonen, NCLR's federal policy director, at jgonen@nclrights.org or 202-734-3547.

Sincerely,

National Center for Lesbian Rights