

February 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

Re: Nomination of Kristen Clarke for 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 write in strong 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. This
letter is written on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law, and other members of our Board who are former Chairs of the Board.

The Lawyers' Committee is an organization whose principal mission is to secure equal justice for all
through the rule of law. The Lawyers' Committee was created at the request of President John F.
Kennedy in the summer of 1963 in the midst of a struggle to end racial segregation and
institutionalized racial discrimination. President Kennedy presciently recognized that lawyers could
use their training and influence to move the struggle for the protection of civil rights from the
streets to the courts.

Though we have achieved much in the way of advancing civil rights since the 1960s, through both
litigation and statutory changes, we recognize that much work remains to be done before all
Americans obtain the benefits and privileges of full equality under the law. The work of Kristen
Clarke, our President and Executive Director for the past five years, reminds us that in representing
those who have suffered discrimination, we move our country a step closer to achieving our
overarching goal of full equality for all Americans.

We know Kristen well and we know that she has fought throughout her career to achieve this goal.
We know her as a daughter of immigrants, and a life-long leader in the struggle to achieve equal
rights for all. We know her as a tireless advocate who became a civil rights lawyer because she saw
the law as the best vehicle to address systemic racism and other barriers preventing all Americans
from enjoying the opportunities available to the more privileged members of our society. We have
observed her toil -- on a day to day basis under challenging circumstances -- over legal strategy,

directing and leading staff, and serving clients with zeal, compassion, and integrity. She is unapologetic in her quest for both equity and equality and is fearless in her willingness to identify those areas where our democracy is falling short.

Now, following a twenty-year career devoted exclusively to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, and after President Biden nominated Kristen to serve as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice, there are people who have leveled attacks, describing her as “hateful” and “racist.” These assertions are belied not only by Kristen’s distinguished career fighting against hate and injustice, but also by the daily example that she has shown to those of us who know her personally and have closely observed her professionalism, her compassion, and her integrity.

All of us are attorneys who have interacted with many attorneys and public officials throughout our professional careers. We are a diverse group of attorneys, representing all sectors of our society, and reflect the make-up of our country. All of us, without hesitation, know Kristen to be an attorney with the utmost integrity, with a deep and abiding commitment to fight against bigotry in all forms, including racism and antisemitism. Our support is based upon our close working relationship with Kristen in her professional capacity, and our personal relationship with her over the years. During those years Kristen has always been at the forefront of the fight against all forms of discrimination and hate-mongering, both explicit and implicit.

We therefore take great pride in submitting this letter on behalf of Kristen Clarke’s nomination. And we can think of no better words to describe Kristen than the ones the President used to describe her and her fellow nominees: “eminently qualified, embody[ing] character and judgment that is beyond reproach, and hav[ing] devoted their careers to serving the American people with honor and integrity.”

Yours truly,

Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin

United States District Judge (Ret.)¹

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