

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

March 11, 2021

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

We are a group of progressive prosecutors and we write today in support of the nomination of Kristen Clarke to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. The Civil Rights Division is one of the most important divisions in the Justice Department. If confirmed, she would be the first black woman to lead the office. At this crucial time for our country, there is no better person to take on this role.

Ms. Clarke has spent her career fighting for racial justice. One of her first jobs after law school was in the very division she would now lead. Clarke worked on voting rights, police brutality, and human trafficking. She then worked for NAACP-LDF and was a key litigator in fighting against attempts to undermine the right to vote for communities of color. Since 2016, she has led the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights, promoting racial and economic justice and pushing to reform our broken criminal justice system.

She has also spoken out on the injustices of the war on drugs, noting the inequity of a marijuana industry that is dominated by white people when the criminalization of marijuana has so devastated communities of color.<sup>1</sup> As the country moves forward with marijuana reform, we agree with Ms. Clarke that the federal government must ensure that there is diversity and inclusion in the cannabis industry, expungement of prior records, and investment into communities that suffered because of marijuana prohibitions.

The Civil Rights Division must take on great importance during the Biden Administration. Our government was attacked by white nationalists in early January. In May of last year, our country was shaken by the tragic killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. And after losing the election, many Republican-dominated state legislatures are moving to impose more barriers to voting. We hope that Ms. Clarke will bring her passion and experience to bear on criminal justice reform, police accountability, consent degrees, immigration, LGBTQI rights, and white nationalism.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/02/22/marijuana-legalization-exposes-cannabis-industry-racial-injustice-incarceration-minorities-column/2836449002/>

Kristen Clarke has demonstrated in her career that she is qualified for this position. More importantly, she is ready to meet this moment. We wholeheartedly endorse her and look forward to working with her.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Mosby, Baltimore City State's Attorney

Larry Krasner, Philadelphia District Attorney

Kim Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney

Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney

Diana Becton, Contra Costa County District Attorney

Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney

George Gascon, Los Angeles District Attorney

Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney

Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County State's Attorney

John Cruzot, Dallas County District Attorney

Satana Deberry, District Attorney for Durham, North Carolina

Kim Gardner, Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis, Missouri

Stephanie Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney for Portsmouth, VA

Lynneice O. Washington, Jefferson County District Attorney - Bessemer Cutoff Division

Sherry Boston, Dekalb County District Attorney

Aramais Ayala, former State's Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida