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April 13, 2021

**MCCA's Statement in Support of Kristen Clarke
Nominee for Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of
the United States Department of Justice**

We urge the timely confirmation of Kristen Clarke to serve as the 19th Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

As the board of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA), we represent hundreds of diverse attorneys across more than 200 of the nation's leading law firms and corporations. Over the years, many of us have crossed paths with Ms. Clarke in her capacity as the President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. We have seen firsthand her commitment to a mission we all share: to ensure a just America, one where the rights of all individuals are protected and everybody has a chance to succeed.

That is why, though we come from different backgrounds, we come together with one voice to declare our unequivocal support for Ms. Clarke—the nominee who meets this moment. Whether it is protecting the right to vote at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, leading civil rights enforcement at the Office of the New York State Attorney General, or defending the rights of marginalized communities at the Lawyers' Committee, Ms. Clarke has made the pursuit of justice the work of her career and life, and we are all better for it.

Now more than ever, we need her leadership. We live in a moment when so many underrepresented communities are under threat. The pandemic has laid bare the harsh inequities faced by Black and brown communities. The death of George Floyd exposed the injustices present in our justice system, especially towards Black Americans. And the brutal murders in Atlanta reminded us that hate, if left unaddressed, has a tendency to metastasize—as it did that day against the Asian American community, which has too often been sidelined in our national discourse.

Ms. Clarke is well-equipped to counter the recent onslaught of hate because, in many ways, it is what she has done throughout her career. She has worked alongside victims of hate to ensure they receive justice and accountability—victims like Sunayana Dumala, the widow of the young South Asian man



who was killed in a Kansas bar in 2017. She has worked hand-in-hand with law enforcement to improve officers' responses to hate crimes. The hate crime investigation policies that she helped develop with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, for example, are being used by police forces around the world. In addition to her extensive professional experience, she would bring to the role her perspective as a Black woman—one that has never been reflected in the leadership of the Civil Rights Division.

At a time when the civil rights and safety of Americans are at stake, we need someone who can beat back the rising tide of hate and enforce the rule of law without fear or favor. Someone who can protect our underrepresented communities and ensure that they have equal access to opportunity. Someone who can reflect the diversity of our country through her own lived experiences and break barriers for the next generation of diverse talent.

Kristen Clarke is that person. As she recently said, the Department of Justice has the ability to take “bold action that moves us closer to that promise of equal justice under law for all, [and is] uniquely positioned to truly help breathe life into that promise.” Under her leadership of the Civil Rights Division—the very office where she first began her career—we are confident that the Department of Justice will do just that.

We urge the Judiciary Committee, and the full Senate, to swiftly confirm Ms. Clarke.

Sincerely yours,

Jean Lee
President and CEO
Minority Corporate Counsel Association

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