

**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 08 2021  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Carlin, John P. (ODAG); Colangelo, Matthew (OASG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Hyun, Peter (OASG); Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO); Bradford, Aryele (PAO); Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Visser, Tim (OAG); West Rasmus, Emma (OASG); Grogg, Adam (OASG); Hahn, Mary (JMD)  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Ahmad, Aziz (CRT); Calderon, Tovah R (CRT); Clarke, Kristen (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT); Friel, Gregory B (CRT); Herring, Oneshia (CRT); Howe, Suey (CRT); Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Moosy, Robert (CRT); Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT); Robins, Jennifer (CRT); Valderrama, Hillary (CRT); Wertz, Jeremy (CRT); Powers, John (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 8, 2021 4:37 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 08 2021 - final.docx

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the AG/CRT Report for the week ending September 10, 2021.

Thanks,

*Bridget*

Bridget Cheung-Smith  
Supervisory Clerical, Contractor  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

September 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report for the Week Ending September 10, 2021

**Significant Activities Last Week, This Week, Next Week**

**LAST WEEK'S EVENTS  
(August 30, 2021 – September 3, 2021)**

Not Responsive

# Not Responsive

**Voting**

*Executive Order 14019: Promoting Access to Voting:* (b)(5) per CRT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# Not Responsive

# Not Responsive

**Voting**

*Executive Order 14019 - Promoting Access to Voting:* (b)(5) per CRT  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# Not Responsive

**From:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM)  
**Subject:** RE: Summit for Democracy  
**To:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)  
**Sent:** September 8, 2021 6:21 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** SummitDem.08.18.21 Summit for Democracy - Domestic Deliverables - Fact Sheet.docx

Kate – below is the WH announcement re the Summit; attached is the latest NSC/interagency draft of proposed domestic-facing Summit deliverables. Glad to discuss if helpful. Best, Bruce

[President Biden to Convene Leaders' Summit for Democracy | The White House](#)

## President Biden to Convene Leaders' Summit for Democracy

AUGUST 11, 2021•

### [STATEMENTS AND RELEASES](#)

The President has said that the challenge of our time is to demonstrate that democracies can deliver by improving the lives of their own people and by addressing the greatest problems facing the wider world. In his first six months in office, the President has reinvigorated democracy at home, vaccinating 70% of population, passing the American Rescue plan, and advancing bipartisan legislation to invest in our infrastructure and competitiveness. And he has rebuilt our alliances with our democratic partners and allies, rallying the world to stand up against human rights abuses, to address the climate crisis, and to fight the global pandemic, including by donating hundreds of millions of vaccine doses to countries around the globe.

In keeping this commitment, today President Biden is pleased to announce that in December he will bring together leaders from a diverse group of the world's democracies at a virtual Summit for Democracy, to be followed in roughly a year's time by a second, in-person Summit. The virtual Summit, to take place on December 9 and 10, will galvanize commitments and initiatives across three principal themes: defending against authoritarianism, fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights. Following a year of consultation, coordination, and action, President Biden will then invite world leaders to gather once more to showcase progress made against their commitments. Both Summits will bring together heads of state, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector, serving as an opportunity for world leaders to listen to one another and to their citizens, share successes, drive international collaboration, and speak honestly about the challenges facing democracy so as to collectively strengthen the foundation for democratic renewal.

Find more here: <https://www.state.gov/summit-for-democracy/>

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**From:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Summit for Democracy

Can you send more background on the Summit itself? Or I'm happy to call if there's not more information in writing.

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**From:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:20 PM  
**To:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Summit for Democracy

Sorry – I must have been especially excited. Yes, it is December 9, which is the first day of the Summit. And I should add that, in discussions w/ the NSC, I clarified that (b)(5) per NSC, would not have to moderate the discussion – instead, that task could be given to someone else, (b)(5) per NSC.

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**From:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 5:16 PM  
**To:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Summit for Democracy

Bruce –

There's a minor typo in your note re: the date, so I want to be sure we have it right. Is it 12/9?

Kate

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**From:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Polite, Kenneth (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>; McQuaid, Nicholas (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>; Driscoll, Kevin (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>  
**Subject:** Summit for Democracy  
**Importance:** High


Matt, Kate, Maggie, Anthony – In connection with ongoing planning meetings on the Summit for Democracy, the (b)(5) per NSC Summit breakout session on 12/9. Glad to provide further information if this is something that (b)(5) per NSC. Thanks, Bruce

**Breakout Session/ December 9 (livestreamed on WH website)**

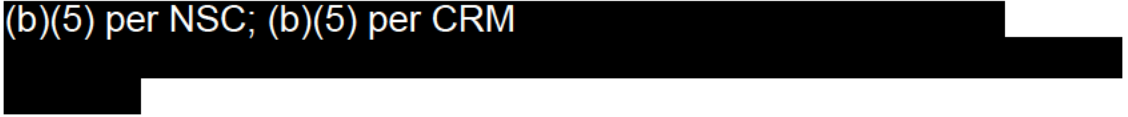
10:35 – 12:00 pm

*Protecting Democratic Institutions: Elections, Political Processes and the Rule of Law*

(b)(5) per CRM



(b)(5) per NSC; (b)(5) per CRM



(b)(5) per CRM

(b)(5) per NSC; (b)(5) per CRM

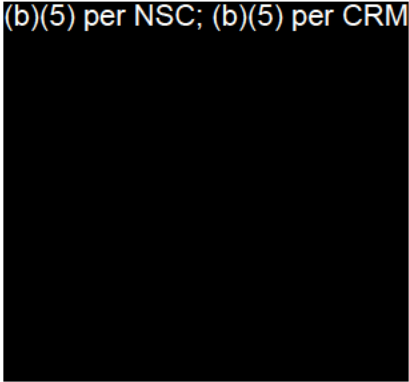
(b)(5) per CRM

(b)(5) per NSC; (b)(5) per CRM

(b)(5) per CRM

(b)(5) per NSC; (b)(5) per CRM

(b)(5) per NSC; (b)(5) per CRM



**From:** Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG)  
**Subject:** RE: Voting EO Strategic Plan  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Visser, Tim (OAG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG)  
**Sent:** September 10, 2021 9:58 AM (UTC-04:00)

Please see revised draft from the USMS on the Voting EO Strategic Plan. Thank you.

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

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**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Voting EO Strategic Plan

+ Karl, Adam, and Ashley

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**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 3, 2021 9:09 PM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Voting EO Strategic Plan

Tim and Myesha—Attached is a working draft of the EO 14019 strategic plan due to OMB on 9/23. Under the schedule Adam cleared with Anita, we will get a draft to ODAG/OAG next Friday 9/10. But if you have initial reactions to this draft, let me know and CRT will incorporate them prior to that circulation. Happy to discuss next week. Enjoy the holiday weekend! Thanks very much, Sparkle

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Subject:** EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG); Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Herren, Chris (CRT); Powers, John (CRT); Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 10, 2021 3:02 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Voting EO Strategic Plan - DOJ Draft 20210910.docx

OAG/ODAG—I'm attaching a near-final draft of the EO 14019 strategic plan due to OMB on 9/23. Please send any edits or comments by **Wednesday 9/15** so that CRT can incorporate them before circulation to the various components ahead of the Exec Sec process. As I flagged in the draft, ODAG is working with BOP to add more detail to that section. Happy to set something up to discuss if necessary. Thanks very much, Sparkle

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Subject:** FW: (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Sent:** September 12, 2021 2:23 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Report Draft EO Promoting Access to Voting\_AUG24 w DOJ COMMENTS\_mjh ss.docx

Hi Tim—(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

- (b) (5)
- [REDACTED]

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Sparkle

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**From:** Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 9:16 PM  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Grogg, Adam (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Wolfson, Paul (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Pride Jr, Theron P. (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Colangelo, Matthew (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Gupta, Vanita (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

Paul/Adam/Sparkle/Theron: FYI, on this COMMERCE report on promoting access to voting, CIV, CRT, and OJP provided comments. Please let me know if you have any comments here before passing to OMB on Monday at 11am.

VG: copying you for your awareness on this report.

Thank you,  
Peter

**Peter S. Hyun** | Chief of Staff  
Office of the Associate Attorney General

(b) (6)  
Desk: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

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**From:** Lawrie, Heather (OLA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 7:26 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Megan (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Benedict, Margot (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Loeb, Emily M. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Colangelo, Matthew (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Wilson, Ashley (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Gaeta, Joseph (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Antell, Kira M. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Payton, Rayshon (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Kellner, Kenneth E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Linares, Elva E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** FW: (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

Greetings ODAG/OASG,

Attached please find a report from the Commerce Department, entitled Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities. We circulated this to OLC, OLP, CRT, CRM, EOUSA, CIV and OJP and CRT provided comments in the document attached. Are there any objections to me sharing these comments with OMB by 11 am on Monday?

Thank you!  
Heather

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**From:** Beechum, Venessa M. (OLA) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:08 PM  
**To:** Clarke, Conor (OLC) <(b) (6)>; Forrester, Nate (OLC) <(b) (6)>; Suska, David (OLC) <(b) (6)>; Davis, Valorie A (OLP) <(b) (6)>; Jones, Lisha (OLP) <(b) (6)>; OLP\_LRM Mailbox <[OLP\\_LRM.Mailbox@usdoj.gov](mailto:OLP_LRM.Mailbox@usdoj.gov)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Foran, Sheila (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Policy, CRT (CRT) <[CRT.Policy@usdoj.gov](mailto:CRT.Policy@usdoj.gov)>; Ruisanchez, Alberto (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Simons, Shaheena (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Valderrama, Hillary (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Brink, David (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>; Morales, Michelle (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>; Opl, Legislation (CRM) <[Legislation.OPL@CRM.USDOJ.GOV](mailto:Legislation.OPL@CRM.USDOJ.GOV)>; Opl, Legislation (CRM) <[Legislation.OPL@CRM.USDOJ.GOV](mailto:Legislation.OPL@CRM.USDOJ.GOV)>; Wroblewski, Jonathan (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM>; USAEO-Legislative <[USAEO.Legislative@usa.doj.gov](mailto:USAEO.Legislative@usa.doj.gov)>; Wood, Seth (USAEO) <(b) (6)>; Baer, Michael H. (CIV) <(b) (6)>; Fan, Dennis (CIV) <(b) (6)>; Gavoor, Aram A. (CIV) <(b) (6)>; policy, civil (CIV) <[civil.policy@usdoj.gov](mailto:civil.policy@usdoj.gov)>; Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Allen, Lara (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Brien, Peter (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Carradini, Rosemary Cavanagh (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Henneberg, Maureen (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Kenser, Nathaniel (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Lambert, Lauren (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Lifshitz, Mariel (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Morrow, Meg (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Newton, William B. (OJP) <(b) (6)>; OJPlegisreview (OJP) <[OJPlegisreview@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:OJPlegisreview@ojp.usdoj.gov)>; Pride Jr, Theron P. (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Searby, Susan (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Sicat, Michelle (OJP) <(b) (6)>; Spector, Adam T (OJP) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Colangelo, Matthew (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Wilson, Ashley (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Kellner, Kenneth E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Antell, Kira M. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Gaeta, Joseph (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Linares, Elva E. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Payton, Rayshon (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Lawrie, Heather (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Lee, Steffanie G. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Lewis, Megan (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Loeb, Emily M. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Solow, Sara (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

**9:00AM, Monday – 09/13/2021**

COMMENTS TO: Heather Lawrie (OLA)

TYPE: Report

REQUESTER: OMB

DETAILS:

- Please review the report “Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities” and let us know any edits by 9 am on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**From:** McCrary, Anna-Catherine C. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** 'AGRICULTURE' <[usdaleg@obpa.usda.gov](mailto:usdaleg@obpa.usda.gov)>; 'DEFENSE' <(b)(6) per DOD>; 'EDUCATION' <[ogc.legislation@ed.gov](mailto:ogc.legislation@ed.gov)>; 'General Services Administration' <[ca.legislation@gsa.gov](mailto:ca.legislation@gsa.gov)>; 'HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES' <[lrn@hhs.gov](mailto:lrn@hhs.gov)>; 'HOMELAND SECURITY' <(b)(6) per DHS>; Justice Lrm (SMO) <[Justicel@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:Justicel@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; 'LABOR' <[dol-sol-leg@dol.gov](mailto:dol-sol-leg@dol.gov)>; 'Office of Personnel Management' <[CLA@opm.gov](mailto:CLA@opm.gov)>; 'STATE' <[state-lrm@state.gov](mailto:state-lrm@state.gov)>; 'Social Security Administration' <(b)(6) per SSA>; 'TREASURY' <[llr@treasury.gov](mailto:llr@treasury.gov)>; 'US Postal Service' <(b)(6) per USPS>  
**Cc:** Patterson, Tia B. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Enger, Michelle A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Turner, Austin F. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Clark, Michael C. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Clark, Damon J. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Connolly, David C. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Skidmore, Ben J. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Curtis, Tyler T. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Salazar, Adam N. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; DL OMB EvidenceTeam <(b)(6) per OMB>; Field, Lesley A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Blum, Mathew C. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; McCrary, Jeremy P. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Hunt, Alex T. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Seehra, Jasmeet K. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Greenwald, Elyse F. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; DL OMB OFCIO Legislative <(b) (6)>; DL OMB OGC <(b) (6)>; DPC ExecSec <(b) (6)>; Lhamon, Catherine E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Levitt, Justin M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Knackstedt, Kimberly M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Vail, Justin W. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Sherman, Donald K. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; DL NSC Cyber <(b) (6)>; DL NSC Legal <(b) (6)>; DL WHO NEC LRM <(b) (6)>; DL WHO WHCO LRM <(b) (6)>; Schwartztol, Larry M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Slevin, Christopher J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Demers, Kaitlyn H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Oswald, Justin T. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Etter, Robert L. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Ward, Benjamin A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Healtton, Kelly A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Vaeth, Matt J. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Ventura, Alexandra EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; McCrary, Anna-Catherine C. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** LRM: [ACM-117-19] Due 09/13/2021 Monday at 11:00 AM -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

**DEADLINE:** 11:00 AM Monday, Sep 13 2021

Attached for your review is a draft NIST report titled "Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities".

This report, required by Sec. 7 of EO 14019 - Promoting Access to Voting, evaluates certain barriers to voting for people with disabilities and provides recommendations to ensure equal access for voters with disabilities. Commerce advises that once OMB has cleared this draft report, NIST will proceed with publishing the report for a 30-day public comment period and will then consider those comments in preparation of the final report. The EO requires that NIST publish the final report within 270 days, which is December 2, 2021.

Please review the report and provide any edits, comments, or signoff by the deadline above. Thank you!

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LRM ID: ACM-117-19

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution

FROM: Ventura, Alexandra (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

SUBJECT: LRM: [ACM-117-19] Due 09/13/2021 Monday at 11:00 AM -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

OMB CONTACT: Anna-Catherine McCrary(OMB)

E-Mail: (b) (6)

PHONE: (b) (6)

In accordance with [OMB Circular No. A-19](#), OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President.

Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for the purposes of the Statutory Pay-as-You-Go Act of 2010.

**From:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Sent:** September 12, 2021 10:20 PM (UTC-04:00)

Hi, Sparkle –

Thanks for flagging this. I agree that (b) (5).

-Tim

---

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: (OLA WF 123632) LRM: [ACM-117-19] -- COMMERCE Report on Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 526

**From:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG)  
**Sent:** September 14, 2021 11:27 AM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Voting EO Strategic Plan - DOJ Draft 20210910\_OAG comments 9.14.docx

Hi, Sparkle –

Here are OAG's minimal comments. Overall, I think this looks good. The only edit I feel particularly strongly about is (b) (5). Happy to discuss further if you like.

Thanks again,  
Tim

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**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Karlan, Pamela (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Herren, Chris (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Powers, John (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** EO 14019 Strategic Plan

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 510



**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG)  
**Sent:** September 14, 2021 12:52 PM (UTC-04:00)

Thanks, Tim! These all look good to me. I'll combine any ODAG edits before sending the draft back to CRT tomorrow.

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**From:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG)  
<(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 584

**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 15 2021  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Carlin, John P. (ODAG); Colangelo, Matthew (OASG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Hyun, Peter (OASG); Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO); Bradford, Aryele (PAO); Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Visser, Tim (OAG); West Rasmus, Emma (OASG); Grogg, Adam (OASG); Hahn, Mary (JMD)  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Ahmad, Aziz (CRT); Calderon, Tovah R (CRT); Clarke, Kristen (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT); Friel, Gregory B (CRT); Herring, Oneshia (CRT); Howe, Suey (CRT); Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Moosy, Robert (CRT); Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT); Robins, Jennifer (CRT); Valderrama, Hillary (CRT); Wertz, Jeremy (CRT); Powers, John (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 15, 2021 4:02 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 15 2021 - final.docx

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the AG/CRT Report for the week ending September 17, 2021.

Thanks,

*Bridget*

Bridget Cheung-Smith  
Supervisory Clerical, Contractor  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

September 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report for the Week Ending September 17, 2021

**Significant Activities Last Week, This Week, Next Week**

**LAST WEEK'S EVENTS  
(September 6, 2021– September 10, 2021)**

Not Responsive

# Not Responsive

*Executive Order 14019 - Promoting Access to Voting:* (b)(5) per CRT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# Not Responsive

**Voting**

*Executive Order 14019 (Promoting Access to Voting):* (b)(5) per CRT

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# Not Responsive

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG); Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Sent:** September 16, 2021 8:54 AM (UTC-04:00)

ODAG—Do you have any edits on the strategic plan? Thanks very much.

---

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Karlan, Pamela (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Herren, Chris (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Powers, John (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** EO 14019 Strategic Plan

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 510

**From:** Thompson, Karl (ODAG)  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG); Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Sent:** September 16, 2021 8:56 AM (UTC-04:00)

We are still working on the BOP part – perhaps it should move forward as is, and we will supplement as soon as we can if possible. I’m not sure about the rest of the plan.

---

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:54 AM  
**To:** Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 628

**From:** Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG)  
**Subject:** RE: EO 14019 Strategic Plan  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Visser, Tim (OAG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Herren, Chris (CRT); Powers, John (CRT); Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 16, 2021 2:57 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Voting EO - BOP (9.16.2021pm).docx

Hi all – With apologies for (another) delay, please see attached for a revised description of BOP’s actions. We’re also happy to discuss if helpful!

Thanks,

Ashley

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**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Braverman, Adam L. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Robertson, Ashley E. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Karlan, Pamela (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Herren, Chris (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Powers, John (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** EO 14019 Strategic Plan

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 510



**From:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 15 2021  
**To:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Braden, Myesha (ODAG)  
**Sent:** September 16, 2021 3:29 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 15 2021 - final.docx

Hi, Sparkle – I wanted to note two things that jumped out at me from the CRT weekly, neither of which is urgent:

1. (b) (5) (I truly did not know (b) (5), but was curious about it). We never circled back on that, but (b) (5) question for me. In addition to the initial question for Adam, I am now also curious (b) (5)
2. In light of (b) (5) (b) (5) get some questions about (b) (5). It may be good to ensure that OPA is prepared to field incoming on that question (b) (5). Separately, we should (b) (5)

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**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD) <AGWeeklyReport@usdoj.gov>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Carlin, John P. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Colangelo, Matthew (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Gupta, Vanita (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Bradford, Aryele (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Thompson, Karl (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Visser, Tim (OAG) <(b) (6)>; West Rasmus, Emma (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Grogg, Adam (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Hahn, Mary (JMD) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Ahmad, Aziz (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Calderon, Tovah R (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Clarke, Kristen (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Friel, Gregory B (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Herring, Oneshia (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Howe, Suey (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Karlan, Pamela (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Moossy, Robert (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Robins, Jennifer (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Valderrama, Hillary (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Wertz, Jeremy (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Powers, John (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 15 2021

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 601

**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 22 2021  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Carlin, John P. (ODAG); Colangelo, Matthew (OASG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Hyun, Peter (OASG); Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO); Bradford, Aryele (PAO); Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Visser, Tim (OAG); West Rasmus, Emma (OASG); Grogg, Adam (OASG); Hahn, Mary (OASG)  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Ahmad, Aziz (CRT); Calderon, Tovah R (CRT); Clarke, Kristen (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT); Friel, Gregory B (CRT); Herring, Oneshia (CRT); Howe, Suey (CRT); Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Moosy, Robert (CRT); Pagnucco, Carrie (CRT); Robins, Jennifer (CRT); Valderrama, Hillary (CRT); Wertz, Jeremy (CRT); Powers, John (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 22, 2021 4:03 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 22 2021 - final.docx

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the AG/CRT Report for the week ending September 24, 2021.

Thank you,

*Bridget*

Bridget Cheung-Smith  
Supervisory Clerical, Contractor  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

September 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report for the Week Ending September 24, 2021

**Significant Activities Last Week, This Week, Next Week**

**LAST WEEK'S EVENTS  
(September 13, 2021– September 17, 2021)**

Not Responsive

**Voting**

# Not Responsive

*Executive Order 14019 (Promoting Access to Voting):* (b)(5) per CRT

# Not Responsive

**From:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Summit for Democracy  
**To:** Schedule, AG86 (OAG); Purdy, Nikita (OAG)  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)  
**Sent:** September 28, 2021 10:17 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** SummitDem.08.18.21 Summit for Democracy - Domestic Deliverables - Fact Sheet.docx

Invite for December 9 from the White House

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**From:** Swartz, Bruce (CRM) <(b)(6) per CRM >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 6:21 PM  
**To:** Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) <(b)(6) >  
**Cc:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Summit for Democracy

Duplicative Information - See Document ID 22-cv-1733 - 497

**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 29 2021  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Carlin, John P. (ODAG); Colangelo, Matthew (OASG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Hyun, Peter (OASG); Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO); Bradford, Aryele (PAO); Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Visser, Tim (OAG); West Rasmus, Emma (OASG); Grogg, Adam (OASG); Hahn, Mary (OASG)  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Calderon, Tovah R (CRT); Clarke, Kristen (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT); Friel, Gregory B (CRT); Herring, Oneshia (CRT); Howe, Suey (CRT); Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Moosy, Robert (CRT); Robins, Jennifer (CRT); Valderrama, Hillary (CRT); Wertz, Jeremy (CRT); Powers, John (CRT); Simon, Eliza (CRT)  
**Sent:** September 29, 2021 3:13 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 09 29 2021 - final.docx

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the AG/CRT Report for the week ending October 1, 2021.

Thank you,

*Bridget*

Bridget Cheung-Smith  
Supervisory Clerical, Contractor  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

September 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report for the Week Ending October 1, 2021

**Significant Activities Last Week, This Week, Next Week**

**LAST WEEK'S EVENTS  
(September 20, 2021– September 24, 2021)**

Not Responsive

# Not Responsive

**Voting**

# Not Responsive

*Executive Order 14019:* (b)(5) per CRT

# Not Responsive



**Voting**

*Executive Order 14019 (Promoting Access to Voting):* (b)(5) per CRT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

# Not Responsive

**From:** Roberts, Alivia P. (PAO)  
**Subject:** Previous Speeches/Articles for the New Yorker Event  
**To:** Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG); Davidson, Marcia A. (OAG); Ramamurti, Arjun R. (OAG)  
**Cc:** Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); Seidman, Ricki (OASG)  
**Sent:** October 1, 2021 5:41 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Modified AG Speeches and Articles 10.1.docx

Hi all – Please see the attached document of the AG’s previous speeches, statements, and articles to include in the AG’s book for the New Yorker event. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Best,  
Alivia

## **KEY SPEECHES**

### **Remarks following Attorney General Nomination Announcement** **January 7, 2021**

Thank you, President-elect Biden. Vice President-elect Harris for asking me to serve as the Attorney General of the United States. Thanks always to my wife, children, sisters, late parents, without whose unstinting support I would not be standing here today. Thanks also to my grandparents whose decision to undertake difficult journey to America made all things possible for my family.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with these wonderful DOJ veterans. Lisa Monaco, Vanita Gupta and Kristen Clarke. Entering the Department of Justice will be a kind of homecoming for me. My very first job after serving as a judicial law clerk was to work as a special assistant to then Attorney General Ben Civiletti. Ed Levi and Griffin Bell, the first Attorneys General appointed after Watergate had enunciated the norms that would ensure the Department's adherence to the rule of law.

Attorney General Civiletti took to continue to work of crafting those norms into written policies. Those policies included guaranteeing the independence of the Department from partisan influence in law-enforcement investigations, regulating communications with the White House, establishing guidelines for FBI investigations.

Ensuring respect for the professionalism of DOJ's lawyers and agents and setting out principles to guide the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. Those policies became part of the DNA of every career lawyer and agent. If confirm, my mission is attorney general would be to reaffirm those policies as principles upon which the department operates.

As Ed Levi said at his own swearing, nothing can more weaken the quality of life or more in imperil the realization of the goals we all hold dear than our failure to make clear by words and deed the that our law is not the instrument of partisan purpose.

In the decades that followed my first term duty of the Department I returned again and again in different roles. As a career line assessment U.S. attorney, as a criminal division supervisor and finally as a senior official in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General. In the latter role, I worked with every component of the Department.

On issues ranging from civil rights and antitrust to domestic terrorism and national security. I also worked directly with line prosecutors and agents and offices from Oklahoma City to Billings, Montana, from Sacramento, California to New York City. Attorney General leaders, Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson famously said the citizens, safety, lives and the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness. Who seeks truth and not victims, serves the law and not factual purposes and who approaches his job with humility.

That was the kind of prosecutor I tried to be during my years of service at the DOJ. In 1997 I left the Department to serve the cause of justice in another role. As a judge, I have loved being a judge. But to serve as attorney general at this critical time, to lead the more than 113,000 dedicated men and women working at the Department to ensure the rule of law is a calling I am honored and eager to answer.

Everyone who watched yesterday events in Washington now understands, if they did not understand before, the rule of law is not just some lawyers turn of phrase . It is the very foundation of our democracy. The essence of the rule of law is that like cases are treated alike. That there not be one rule for Democrats and another for Republicans. One rule for friends, another for foes. One rule for the powerful, another for the powerless. One rule for the rich and another for the poor or different rules depending on one's race or ethnicity.

And the essence of its great corollary , equal justice under law is that all citizens are protected in the exercise their civil rights. Those ideals have animated the Department of Justice since the very moment of its inception. As President-elect Biden just recounted , the Department was founded in the midst of reconstruction following the civil war with its first principle task to ensure compliance with the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments .

As Historian Ron Chernow wrote, quote the new Justice Department would forge its identity and bow to slay the first incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan and his offshoots. In that battle, the Department successfully deployed its considerable resources to ensure civil rights which were under militant attack. These principles ensuring the rule of law in making the promise of equal justice under law real are the great principles upon which the department of justice was founded and for which it must always stand . they echo today the priorities lie before us.

A maturing racial equity in our justice system to meeting the evolving threat of violent extremism. If confirmed, those are the principles to which i will be devoted as attorney general. President-elect Biden understands this. As he said today and as he has publicly said before quote, it's not my Justice Department. It's the people Justice Department.

He promised that the person he chose to lead the Department would have the quote, independent capacity to decide who gets prosecuted and who doesn't. Vice president-elect Harris has also publicly stated quote, any decision coming out of the Justice Department should be based on facts, should be based on law. It should not be based on politics. Period. I could not agree more. And I would not have agreed to be considered for attorney general under any other conditions.

So thank you both for giving me the opportunity to serve.

**Opening Statement at Senate Judiciary Confirmation Hearing**  
**February 22, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee for Attorney General.

I would like first to take this opportunity to introduce you to my wife, Lynn; my daughters, Jessie and Becky; and my son-in-law, Xan. I am grateful to them -- and to my entire extended family watching these proceedings on C-SPAN -- every day of my life.

The President nominates the Attorney General to be the lawyer -- not for any individual, but for the people of the United States. July 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Justice, making this a fitting time to remember the mission of the Attorney General and the Department.

It is a fitting time to reaffirm that the role of the Attorney General is to serve the Rule of Law and to ensure equal justice under the law. And it is a fitting time to recognize the more than 115,000 career employees of the Department and its law enforcement agencies, and their commitment to serve the cause of justice and protect the safety of our communities.

If I am confirmed, serving as Attorney General will be the culmination of a career I have dedicated to ensuring that the laws of our country are fairly and faithfully enforced, and that the rights of all Americans are protected.

Before I became a judge almost 24 years ago, a significant portion of my professional life was spent at the Justice Department -- as a special assistant to Ben Civiletti, the last of the trio of post-Watergate Attorneys General; as a line Assistant U.S. Attorney; as a supervisor in the Criminal Division; and, finally, as a senior official in the Deputy Attorney General's Office.

Many of the policies the Justice Department developed during those years are the foundation for reaffirming the norms that will ensure the Department's adherence to the Rule of Law: Policies that protect the independence of the Department from partisan influence in law enforcement investigations; that strictly regulate communications with the White House; that establish guidelines for FBI domestic operations and foreign intelligence collection; that ensure respectful treatment of the press; that read the Freedom of Information Act generously; that respect the professionalism of DOJ's career employees; and that set out principles of federal prosecution to guide the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

In conversations we have had before this hearing, many of you asked why I would agree to leave a lifetime appointment as a judge. I have told you that I love being a judge. I have also told you that this is an important time for me to step forward because of my deep respect for the Department of Justice and its critical role in ensuring the Rule of Law.

Celebrating DOJ's 150th year reminds us of the origins of the Department, which was founded during Reconstruction, in the aftermath of the Civil War, to secure the civil rights promised by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. The first Attorney General appointed by President Grant to head the new Department led it in a concerted battle to protect black voting rights from the violence of white supremacists, successfully prosecuting hundreds of cases against members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Almost a century later, the Civil Rights Act of 1957 created the Department's Civil Rights Division, with the mission "to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society."

That mission remains urgent because we do not yet have equal justice. Communities of color and other minorities still face discrimination in housing, education, employment, and the criminal justice system; and bear the brunt of the harm caused by pandemic, pollution, and climate change.

150 years after the Department's founding, battling extremist attacks on our democratic institutions also remains central to its mission.

From 1995 to 1997, I supervised the prosecution of the perpetrators of the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, who sought to spark a revolution that would topple the federal government. If confirmed, I will supervise the prosecution of white supremacists and others who stormed the Capitol on January 6 -- a heinous attack that sought to disrupt a cornerstone of our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power to a newly elected government.

That critical work is but a part of the broad scope of the Department's responsibilities. DOJ protects Americans from environmental degradation and the abuse of market power, from fraud and corruption, from violent crime and cybercrime, and from drug trafficking and child exploitation.

And it must do all of that without ever taking its eye off the risk of another devastating attack by foreign terrorists. The Attorney General takes an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies -- foreign and domestic.

I am mindful of the tremendous responsibility that comes with this role. As Attorney General, later Supreme Court Justice, Robert Jackson famously said:

The prosecutor has more control over life, liberty, and reputation than any other person in America. [The prosecutor's] discretion is tremendous.... While [prosecutors] at [their] best are one of the most beneficent forces in our society, when [they] act from malice or other base motives, [they are] one of the worst.

Jackson then went on to say:

The citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches [the] task with humility.

That was the kind of prosecutor I tried to be during my prior service in the Department of Justice. That is the spirit I tried to bring to my tenure as a federal judge. If confirmed, I promise to do my best to live up to that ideal as Attorney General.  
Thank you.

**Attorney General Merrick Garland Addresses the 115,000 Employees of the Department of Justice on His First Day**  
**March 11, 2021**

Thank you so much for those kind words, Monty.

As Monty said, we first met when I was working for the Deputy Attorney General. Monty was an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Initially a prosecutor and then a supervisor of prosecutors, Monty later jumped to the Department's offices that make everything work. First to the Executive Office for U. S. Attorneys and then to the Justice Management Division. And for the past seven weeks, Monty has ensured that the Department continued to work and to honor its proud traditions during the leadership transition between new administrations. I am deeply grateful.

On January 7th of this year, when the President Elect announced his intention to nominate me for Attorney General, I spoke to the American people. On February 22nd, when my Senate Judiciary Committee hearing began, I spoke to the United States Congress. Today, I want to speak to you, the more than 115,000 employees of the United States Department of Justice. Now I had hoped to be standing before more of you today in this Great Hall, but the circumstances of the ongoing pandemic will not permit it. That, however, is a small disappointment compared to the hardships that many of you have suffered and the additional burdens you have borne as a consequence of the pandemic.

I have to tell you that when I walked in the door of Main Justice this morning, it really did feel like I was coming home. I first walked into this building when I was 26 years old. I was here for a job interview and I was awestruck. This is a beautiful hall and this is a beautiful building built in the midst of the Great Depression. But, it was the ideal of justice to which it is a monument that was truly awe inspiring. Everywhere I looked there were serious people pursuing the cause of Justice. I left the interview wanting the job badly. The way I'm sure each of you felt after your DOJ interview. The way we want everyone who interviews at DOJ to feel. I know that was how I felt every time I came back to interview for another Justice Department position and after leaving my first position for private practice, I did come back many times to serve in a variety of positions both career and non-career. Along the way, I worked with DOJ attorneys, agents and staff in every component of the Department and across the width and breadth of this country. Altogether, I served under five Attorneys General appointed by four Presidents. I know that some of you have notched up plenty more.

The Department of Justice has also been a large part of the lives of people who are close to me. My younger sister followed me to DOJ where she served as a career attorney in the Civil Division. More than 35 of my former law clerks went on to serve at the Justice Department in both career and non-career positions. Many of my closest friends are veterans of the Department with both career and non-career service. For all of you and for me, public service is more than a job. It is a calling. All of you have chosen the Department of Justice over other places where you might have used your skills and where you might have earned a higher salary. I am grateful beyond words for your service to this country. All of us are united by our commitment to the rule of law and to seeking equal justice under law. We are united by our commitment to protecting our country as our oath says, "from all enemies foreign and domestic," and by our commitment to enforcing our country's laws and to ensuring the civil rights and the civil liberties of our people. The only way we can succeed and retain the trust of the American people is to adhere to the norms that have become part of the DNA of every Justice Department employee since Edward Levy's stint as the first post-Watergate Attorney General.

As I said at the announcement of my nomination, those norms require that like cases be treated alike. That there not be one rule for Democrats and another for Republicans; One rule for friends and another for foes; One rule for the powerful and another for the powerless; One rule for the rich and another for the

poor; Or different rules depending upon one's race or ethnicity. At his swearing in, Attorney General Levy said: "If we are to have a government of laws and not of men, then it takes dedicated men and women to accomplish this through their zeal and determination, and also through fairness and impartiality. And I know that this Department always has had such dedicated men and women." I, too, know that this Department has and always has had such dedicated people. I am honored to work with you once again. Together, we will show the American people by word and deed that the Department of Justice pursues equal justice and adheres to the rule of law.

Thank you.



**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks at Announcement of Pattern or Practice Investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department**

**April 21, 2021**

Good morning.

Like so many of you, I have closely watched the events in Minnesota. Although the state's prosecution was successful, I know that nothing can fill the void that the loved ones of George Floyd have felt since his death. My heart goes out to them and to all those who have experienced similar loss.

I know such wounds have deep roots, and that too many communities have experienced those wounds firsthand. Yesterday's verdict in the state criminal trial does not address potentially systemic policing issues in Minneapolis.

Today, I am announcing that the Justice Department has opened a civil investigation to determine whether the Minneapolis Police Department engages in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing.

This effort will be staffed by experienced attorneys and other personnel from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota.

The new civil investigation is separate from and independent of the federal criminal investigation into the death of George Floyd that the Justice Department has previously announced.

Congress gave the department the authority to conduct civil pattern-or-practice investigations, which look beyond individual incidents to assess systemic failures.

Those investigations allow the department to determine whether a police department has a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing.

The investigation I am announcing today will assess whether the Minneapolis Police Department engages in a pattern or practice of using excessive force, including during protests.

The investigation will also assess whether the MPD engages in discriminatory conduct and whether its treatment of those with behavioral health disabilities is unlawful.

It will include a comprehensive review of the Minneapolis Police Department's policies, training, supervision, and use-of-force investigations.

It will assess the effectiveness of the MPD's current systems of accountability, and whether other mechanisms are needed to ensure constitutional and lawful policing.

Broad participation in this investigation, from the community and from law enforcement, will be vital to its success.

The Justice Department has already begun to reach out to community groups and members of the public to learn about their experiences with the MPD. We also seek to hear from the department's officers about the training and support they receive because their perspective is essential.

All these voices will help provide investigators the information they need to conduct a comprehensive assessment. All these voices will be critical to the reform efforts that will follow if the investigation determines the existence of constitutional or statutory violations.

If the Justice Department concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe there is a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing, we will issue a public report of our conclusions.

The Justice Department also has the authority to bring a civil lawsuit, asking a federal court to provide injunctive relief that orders the MPD to change its policies and practices to avoid further violations.

Usually, when the Justice Department finds unlawful patterns or practices, the local police department enters into a settlement agreement or a consent decree to ensure that prompt and effective action is taken to align policing practices with the law.

Most of our nation's law enforcement officers do their difficult jobs honorably and lawfully.

I strongly believe that good officers do not want to work in systems that allow bad practices. Good officers welcome accountability because accountability is an essential part of building trust with the community, and public safety requires public trust.

I have been involved in the legal system, in one way or another, for most of my adult life. I know that justice is sometimes slow, sometimes elusive, and sometimes never comes. The Department of Justice will be unwavering in its pursuit of equal justice under law.

The challenges we face are deeply woven into our history – they did not arise today or last year.

Building trust between the community and law enforcement will take time and effort by all of us, but we undertake this task with determination and urgency, knowing that change cannot wait.

Thank you.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks at Announcement of Pattern or Practice Investigation into the Louisville Police Department**

**April 26, 2021**

Good afternoon.

I am joined today by our recently-confirmed Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco and our recently confirmed Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

They are leaders of great ability and integrity, and I am very happy that they have returned to serve again at the Justice Department. The department is stronger for their presence.

The United States Department of Justice is a federal law enforcement agency, comprised of thousands of law enforcement officers who collaborate with and support our colleagues throughout our nation's police departments.

We are uniquely aware of the challenges faced by those who serve as police officers. We see their commitment firsthand every day, and we recognize the complex issues that make their already difficult jobs even harder.

The Justice Department is also charged with ensuring that the constitutional and federal statutory rights of all people are protected. As I explained last week, Congress has authorized the department to conduct pattern-or-practice investigations to help it fulfill that responsibility.

Those investigations, and the recommendations and actions that ensue, do not only protect individuals' civil rights. They also assist police departments in developing measures to increase transparency and accountability.

Those qualities are necessary to building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. And community trust is essential to making policing more effective and less dangerous for officers on the street.

Today, the Justice Department is opening a civil investigation into the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government and the Louisville Metro Police Department, to determine whether LMPD engages in a pattern or practice of violations of the Constitution or federal law.

Today's announcement is based on an extensive review of publicly available information about LMPD conducted by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The investigation will assess whether LMPD engages in a pattern or practice of using unreasonable force, including with respect to people involved in peaceful expressive activities. It will determine whether LMPD engages in unconstitutional stops, searches, and seizures; as well as whether the department unlawfully executes search warrants on private homes. It will also assess whether LMPD engages in discriminatory conduct on the basis of race or fails to provide public services that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The investigation will include a comprehensive review of the Louisville Police Department's policies and training. It will also assess the effectiveness of LMPD's supervision of officers and systems of accountability.

As in every Justice Department investigation, we will follow the facts and the law wherever they lead. If there is reasonable cause to believe that there is a pattern or practice of constitutional or statutory violations, we will issue a public report of our conclusions.

If violations are found, the Justice Department will aim to work with the city and police department to arrive at a set of mutually agreeable steps that they can take to correct and prevent unlawful patterns or practices. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Justice Department has the authority to bring a civil lawsuit seeking injunctive relief to address the violations.

The investigation will be led by our Civil Rights Division, and will be conducted by career staff of the division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky. The investigators will seek input from every corner of Louisville. They will work with the community, with public officials, and with law enforcement officers.

All of these steps will be taken with one goal in mind: to ensure that policing policies and practices are constitutional and lawful. That is the same goal as that of our investigation in Minneapolis, and of every pattern-or-practice investigation that the department undertakes.

When we announced the investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department last week, we received an immediate pledge of support from Minneapolis Mayor Frey and MPD Chief Arradondo.

We have briefed Louisville Mayor Fischer and LMPD Chief Shields on our investigation in Louisville. They too have pledged their support and cooperation. Louisville has already taken some steps towards reform through its settlement with the family of Breonna Taylor, as well as through other measures. We commend those measures, and our investigation will take them into account.

It is clear that the public officials in Minneapolis and Louisville – including those in law enforcement – recognize the importance and urgency of our efforts. We come to them as partners, knowing that we share a common aim.

There are approximately 18,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in our country. In each one, dedicated officers put themselves in harm's way to protect others.

Promoting public trust between communities and law enforcement is essential to making both communities and policing safer. Our enforcement efforts, as well as our grant-making and other support, will contribute to achieving that end and to protecting the civil rights of everyone in our country.

Thank you.

**Statement from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland on the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act**  
**May 20, 2021**

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland made the following statement after President Biden's signing of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law:

“Today’s bill signing is an important step toward protecting everyone in our country from acts of hate and intolerance.

“We have seen a substantial rise in hate crimes and bias-related incidents against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community since the beginning of the pandemic.

“This new law will help speed our response to hate crimes and provide resources to law enforcement to improve hate crime reporting. The law will assist law enforcement in targeting its efforts, which will help to prevent these devastating crimes and to respond efficiently and effectively to crimes, when they occur.

“The Department of Justice is proud to play a central role in implementing this legislation. Investigating and prosecuting hate crimes is a top priority, deeply rooted in the department’s founding. We will use the new law to enhance the aggressive measures we are taking to combat crime motivated by bigotry and discrimination.”

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivered a Policy Address Regarding Voting Rights**  
**June 11, 2021**

Good afternoon. It's wonderful to be here in the Great Hall with the dedicated staff of the Civil Rights Division, joined by our Deputy and Associate Attorneys General, and by our newly-arrived Assistant Attorney General, Kristen Clarke. Welcome. I have tremendous respect for the work you do every day to protect civil rights for everyone in America.

I was sworn in as Attorney General exactly three months ago. In that time, I have had a chance to work directly with several of you on some of the most consequential matters in the Justice Department.

I consulted with the division in connection with the opening of two investigations regarding potential patterns of unconstitutional policing, in Minnesota, Minneapolis and Louisville. I consulted with you to discuss the criminal indictments on civil rights charges for the death of George Floyd. And I have consulted with you regarding the strategy for protecting every American's right to vote.

Today, I am looking forward to speaking to you – all of you – about the work of the Voting Section.

That work has personal resonance for me. When I first came to the Justice Department as a 26-year-old, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Drew Days, took me under his wing, beginning a life-long friendship.

At that time, Drew was working on the brief in *City of Rome*, which defended the constitutionality of the 1975 extension of the Voting Rights Act and its preclearance provision. The brief was filed just weeks after I arrived at the department. And seven months later, in an opinion by Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court endorsed the division's position that the extension of the Act was "plainly a constitutional method of enforcing the Fifteenth Amendment."

There are many things that are open to debate in America. But the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow.

In introducing the 1965 Voting Rights Act, President Johnson told the Congress: "It is wrong – deadly wrong – to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote."

In signing the 1982 reauthorization of the Act, President Reagan stated: "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished." And in signing the 2006 reauthorization, President Bush stated that, "[t]he right of ordinary men and women to determine their own . . . future lies at the heart of the American experiment."

This proposition has not, of course, always been accepted. When the Constitution was ratified in 1788, most states limited the right to vote to white men, and often only those white men who owned a certain amount of property.

Since then, constitutional amendments have expanded the franchise. The Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments prohibited denying citizens the right to vote on account of race and sex. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment outlawed poll taxes. And the Twenty-Sixth Amendment extended the right to vote to citizens who are 18 or older.

But progress to protect voting rights – and especially for Black Americans and other people of color – has never been steady. Moments of voting rights expansion have often been met with counter-efforts to curb the franchise.

And actually securing the protections guaranteed by our Constitution and laws has always required vigilant enforcement by Congress, the courts, and the Justice Department.

This department's role effectively began in the 1870s.

The Reconstruction amendments adopted after the Civil War were a dramatic step forward. The framers of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments recognized that access to the ballot was a fundamental aspect of citizenship and self-government.

Representative John Bingham – the principal author of the Fourteenth Amendment – called the right to vote the source of all institutions of democratic government.

Bingham and other framers of the Reconstruction amendments also knew that a meaningful right to vote requires meaningful enforcement.

Months after ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, Congress enacted the first Ku Klux Klan Act. Among other things, that Act prohibited interference with the newly protected right to vote, and it authorized the United States Attorneys and marshals to bring criminal actions against anyone who violated the Act's provisions.

And only a few weeks after that, Congress created the Department of Justice, and President Grant charged it with enforcing the Act and protecting the rights promised by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

Amos Akerman, the first Attorney General President Grant appointed to lead the new Justice Department, zealously sought to protect Black voting rights, directing U.S. Attorneys that it was their “special duty to initiate proceedings against all violators” of the Ku Klux Klan Act. In the next few years, DOJ lawyers successfully prosecuted hundreds of Ku Klux Klan leaders and others. Those efforts helped to secure a brief period of meaningful Black voting rights in some parts of the former Confederacy.

But, the federal commitment to protecting Black voting rights waned as Reconstruction drew to a close.

In 1866, the Supreme Court severely undercut the department's enforcement efforts by holding that the First Ku Klux Klan Act exceeded Congress's power under the Fifteenth Amendment.

Between 1890 and 1908, every southern state enacted a new constitution or amended its constitution to exclude Black voters or significantly impede their participation. The courts did not stand in the way, rejecting every constitutional challenge.

And for the next half-century, no branch of the federal government did much to protect voting rights.

That began to change in the late 1950s, when the Justice Department renewed its efforts to protect the right to vote, and the Supreme Court reestablished judicial oversight of the political process.

In 1957, Congress enacted its first major civil rights statute since Reconstruction. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 – based on a legislative proposal first drafted by this department – enabled the creation of DOJ's Civil Rights Division and authorized the Attorney General to sue to enjoin voter intimidation or racially-discriminatory denials of the right to vote.

The first case against a county registrar for violating the Act, *United States v. Lynd*, was brought by John Doar, an attorney who served in the Civil Rights Division during the Eisenhower Administration.

By 1963, the department had filed 35 suits challenging discrimination or threats against Black registration applicants in individual counties. But, as Attorney General Robert Kennedy said, that was a “painfully slow way of providing what is, after all, [a] fundamental right of citizenship.”

As the Supreme Court later acknowledged in *South Carolina v. Katzenbach*, in this effort the department was seriously hindered by the burden of bringing case-by-case challenges.

During the same period, the department successfully urged the Supreme Court to revisit its prior unwillingness to enforce constitutional and statutory protections of the franchise.

In *Gomillion v. Lightfoot* in 1960, the Supreme Court invalidated the infamous gerrymander of the City of Tuskegee, Alabama, which had redefined the City’s boundaries to exclude 99% of the City’s Black population without removing a single white voter.

And in *Reynolds v. Sims*, four years later, the Supreme Court established the “one-person, one-vote” principle, holding that the Fourteenth Amendment protects the right of each citizen to have an equally effective voice in the political process.

The legislative branch followed the judiciary, and both followed the Civil Rights Movement that swept the country. In 1965, in the wake of Bloody Sunday and based on a record developed in large part by the Civil Rights Division’s litigation, Congress enacted what President Johnson called “one of the most monumental laws in the entire history of American freedom” – the Voting Rights Act.

The Act was reauthorized and signed by President Nixon in 1970, by President Ford in 1975, by President Reagan in 1982, and by President Bush in 2006.

Under the preclearance requirement of that law, DOJ objected to more than one thousand discriminatory voting changes between 1965 and 2006.

But in recent years, the protections of federal voting rights law have been drastically weakened. In 2013, the *Shelby County* decision effectively eliminated the preclearance protections of the Voting Rights Act, which had been the department’s most effective tool to protect voting rights over the past half-century.

Since that opinion, there has been a dramatic rise in legislative efforts that will make it harder for millions of citizens to cast a vote that counts. So far this year, at least fourteen states have passed new laws that make it harder to vote. And some jurisdictions, based on disinformation, have utilized abnormal post-election audit methodologies that may put the integrity of the voting process at risk and undermine public confidence in our democracy.

The Civil Rights Division has already sent a letter expressing its concern that one of those audits may violate provisions of the Civil Rights Act that require election officials to safeguard federal election records – the very same provisions that formed the original basis for the department’s 1960 investigation in the *Lynd* case. The division also expressed concern that the audit may violate a provision of the Voting Rights Act that bars intimidation of voters.

As part of its mission to protect the right to vote, the Justice Department will, of course, do everything in its power to prevent election fraud and, if found, to vigorously prosecute it.



But many of the justifications proffered in support of these post-election audits and restrictions on voting have relied on assertions of material vote fraud in the 2020 election that have been refuted by law enforcement and intelligence agencies of both this Administration and the previous one, as well as by every court – federal and state – that has considered them.

Moreover, many of the changes are not even calibrated to address the kinds of voter fraud that are alleged as their justification.

To meet the challenge of the current moment, we must rededicate the resources of the Department of Justice to a critical part of its original mission: enforcing federal law to protect the franchise for all voters.

In 1961, Attorney General Robert Kennedy called into his office the newly appointed Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Burke Marshall; and Marshall's now First Assistant, John Doar. At that time, before the 1965 Act with its preclearance provision was enacted, the only way to guarantee the right of Black Americans to vote was to bring individual actions in each county and parish that discriminated against them.

Kennedy told his assistants that was what he wanted to do. "Well General," Burke Marshall replied, "if you want that, we've got to have a lot more lawyers."

Well, today we are again without a preclearance provision. So again, the Civil Rights Division is going to need more lawyers. Accordingly, today I am announcing that – within the next thirty days – we will double the division's enforcement staff for protecting the right to vote.

We will use all existing provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure that we protect every qualified American seeking to participate in our democracy.

We are scrutinizing new laws that seek to curb voter access, and where we see violations, we will not hesitate to act.

We are also scrutinizing current laws and practices in order to determine whether they discriminate against Black voters and other voters of color. Particularly concerning in this regard are several studies showing that, in some jurisdictions, nonwhite voters must wait in line substantially longer than white voters to cast their ballots.

We will apply the same scrutiny to post-election audits, to ensure they abide by federal statutory requirements to protect election records and avoid the intimidation of voters.

In that regard, we will publish guidance explaining the civil and criminal statutes that apply to post-election audits.

And we will likewise publish guidance with respect to early voting and voting by mail.

And because the upcoming redistricting cycle will likely be the first since 1960 to proceed without the key preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, we will publish new guidance to make clear the voting protections that apply to all jurisdictions as they redraw their legislative maps.

Under the supervision of the Deputy and Associate Attorneys General, the department will implement its responsibility under Presidential Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting. Those include

ensuring access to voter registration for eligible individuals in federal custody. They also include assisting other federal agencies in expanding voter registration opportunities, as permitted by law.

We will also work with Congress to provide all necessary support as it considers federal legislation to protect voting rights. Although we will not wait for that legislation to act, we must be clear-eyed: the Shelby County decision eliminated critical tools for protecting voting rights. And, as the President has said, we need Congress to pass S.1 and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would provide the department with the tools it needs.

We will also partner with other federal agencies to combat election disinformation that intentionally tries to suppress the vote.

Finally, we have not been blind to the dramatic increase in menacing and violent threats against all manner of state and local election workers, ranging from the highest administrators to volunteer poll workers. Such threats undermine our electoral process and violate a myriad of federal laws.

The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, together with the department's National Security and Criminal Divisions, the 93 United States Attorneys, and the FBI, will investigate and promptly prosecute any violations of federal law.

Nearly two and a half centuries into our experiment of "government of the people, by the people, for the people," we have learned much about what supports a healthy democracy.

We know that expanding the ability of all eligible citizens to vote is the central pillar. That means ensuring that all eligible voters can cast a vote; that all lawful votes are counted; and that every voter has access to accurate information. The Department of Justice will never stop working to protect the democracy to which all Americans are entitled.

In an editorial published after his death, the great John Lewis recalled an important lesson taught by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

"He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part ...."

Thanks to all of your work, the Department of Justice will always stand up to ensure the survival of the central pillar of our democracy. Thank you.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks Announcing Lawsuit Against the State of Georgia to Stop Racially Discriminatory Provisions of New Voting Law**  
**June 25, 2021**

Good morning, I'm pleased to be joined by Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, and Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke.

I want to begin today, though, by expressing my condolences for the community in Surfside, Florida. I know how difficult it is for the families who have lost and for those who are waiting to hear. And I've expressed great gratitude for the first responders and for the others who were assisting in the ongoing rescue operation. I know that the federal government is providing assistance to the state and local governments, and we stand ready as things develop to provide more assistance if it is required.

The rights of all eligible citizens to vote are the central pillars of our democracy. They are the rights from which all other rights ultimately flow. Two weeks ago, I spoke about our country's history of expanding the right to vote. I noted that our progress on protecting voting rights, especially for black Americans and people of color, has never been steady. Moments of voting rights expansion have often been met with counter efforts to curb the franchise.

Among other things, I expressed concern about the dramatic rise in state legislative actions that will make it harder for millions of citizens to cast a vote that counts.

I explained that the Justice Department is rededicating its resources to enforcing federal law and to protecting the franchise for all eligible voters. And I promised that we are scrutinizing new laws that seek to curb voter access and that where we see violations of federal law, we will act.

In keeping with that promise, today, the Department of Justice is suing the State of Georgia. Our complaint alleges that recent changes to Georgia's election laws were enacted with the purpose of denying or abridging the right of black Georgians to vote on account of their race or color in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Several studies show that Georgia experienced record voter turnout and participation rates in the 2020 election cycle. Approximately two thirds of eligible voters in the state cast a ballot in the November election, just over the national average. This is cause for celebration.

But then, in March of 2021, Georgia's legislature passed SB 202. Many of that law's provisions make it harder for people to vote. The complaint alleges that the state enacted those restrictions with the purpose of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

In a few moments Assistant Attorney General Clarke will talk in more detail about this case, *United States v. Georgia*.

I want to thank the staff of the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section for their hard work on this matter and for their everyday efforts to protect Americans' voting rights. The critical nature of their work is the reason we are doubling the section's enforcement staff.

This lawsuit is the first of many steps we are taking to ensure that all eligible voters can cast a vote, that all lawful votes are counted and that every voter has access to accurate information.

The Civil Rights Division continues to analyze other state laws that have been passed, and we are following the progress of legislative proposals under consideration in additional states. Where we believe the civil rights of Americans have been violated, we will not hesitate to act.

We will use all existing provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure that we protect every qualified American seeking to participate in our democracy.

Under the supervision of the Associate Attorney General, the Civil Rights Division is also taking proactive measures to help states understand federal law and best practices. We are in the process of developing guidance to help ensure that postelection audits comply with federal law, and we are working on guidance with respect to early voting and voting by mail.

And because the upcoming redistricting cycle may be the first since 1960 to proceed without the key preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act. We will publish new guidance to make clear the voting protections that apply to all jurisdictions as they redraw their electoral maps. These include maps used for congressional districts, state legislatures, county commissions, city councils, and more.

Pursuant to President Biden's executive order, we are also working to ensure access to voter registration for eligible individuals in federal custody and will assist other federal agencies and expanding voter registration opportunities as permitted by law.

Finally, as I noted two weeks ago, we are seeing a dramatic increase in menacing and violent threats, ranging from the highest administrators to volunteer poll workers.

To address this effort to undermine our electoral process, today, the Deputy Attorney General will issue a directive to all federal prosecutors and the FBI, which will highlight the prevalence of these threats and instruct them to prioritize investigating these threats.

Today, we will also launch a task force, including personnel from the Criminal Division, the Civil Rights Division, the National Security Division, and the FBI to focus on these threats.

We will promptly prosecute any violations of federal law.

We are using every method at our disposal and our enforcement efforts, but that is not enough. We urge Congress to act to provide the Department with important authorities it needs to protect the voting rights of every American.

Eight years ago today, the Supreme Court issued the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Prior to that decision, the Justice Department had an invaluable tool it could use to protect voters from discrimination, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Under that section, any change with respect to voting in a covered jurisdiction could not be enforced unless the jurisdiction first proved to the Justice Department or to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia that the proposed change did not deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

Using that tool, the Department prevented over 175 proposed election laws across Georgia from being implemented because they failed the statutory test. If Georgia had still been covered by Section 5, it is likely that SB 202 would never have taken effect. We urge Congress to restore this invaluable tool.

I will now turn the podium over to Kristen Clarke who will tell you more about our filing in United States v. Georgia.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks Announcing a Pattern or Practice Investigation into the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department**  
**August 5, 2021**

Good afternoon.

I am joined here today by Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke.

Today, we are announcing that the Justice Department is opening an investigation into the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department. The investigation will determine whether the Phoenix Police Department engages in a pattern or practice of violations of the Constitution or federal law.

This is the third pattern or practice investigation I have announced as Attorney General. Each time, I have noted that these investigations aim to promote transparency and accountability. This increases public trust, which in turn increases public safety.

We know that law enforcement shares these goals.

The Justice Department has briefed Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Police Chief Jeri Williams about the investigation. We are pleased by their pledge of support.

They, too, recognize that we share common aims.

Our investigation in Phoenix will be led by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. It is based on the Division's extensive review of publicly available information and it will consider several issues.

First, whether the Phoenix Police Department uses excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

Second, whether the Phoenix Police Department engages in discriminatory policing practices that violate the Constitution and federal law.

Third, whether the Department violates the First Amendment by retaliating against individuals who are engaged in protected expressive activities.

Fourth, whether the City and its Police Department respond to people with disabilities in a manner that violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes whether decisions to criminally detain individuals with behavioral health disabilities are proper.

And fifth, whether the Phoenix Police Department violates the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness, by seizing and disposing of their belongings in a manner that violates the Constitution.

Those last two areas of investigative focus speak to an important issue that is broader than the Phoenix investigation: Our society is straining the policing profession by turning to law enforcement to address a wide array of social problems.

Too often, we ask law enforcement officers to be the first and last option for addressing issues that should not be handled by our criminal justice system.

This makes police officers' jobs more difficult, increases unnecessary confrontations with law enforcement, and hinders public safety.

This past week, there has been much attention to the impending risk of mass evictions, which would put millions of tenants at risk of losing shelter.

Needless to say, the impact on individuals and families would be devastating. And as the CDC has made clear, the impact on public health would likewise be devastating, fueling the spread of Covid-19 infections in the affected communities.

Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta is leading a Justice Department effort with state court leaders on this problem. On June 24, she sent a letter to state courts urging them to implement eviction diversion strategies that will increase the chances that families can stay in their homes.

Mass evictions would also have serious implications for law enforcement — adding to a crisis of homelessness that strains but cannot be solved by the criminal justice system.

The ramifications do not end there.

Far too often, police officers are the first ones called when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis in any setting. But it is almost certain that police will be called to respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis if that person is also without housing. And as we have repeatedly seen, the risks to everyone involved in such interactions are enormous.

These issues must be addressed if we are to ease the burdens that our society places on law enforcement and ensure the safety of our communities. The Justice Department, through grantmaking, technical assistance, and training, supports law enforcement and community-based programs to tackle these challenges.

I will now turn the podium over to Assistant Attorney General Clarke, who will talk more about our pattern or practice investigation.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks at Justice Department Leadership Meeting with State and Local Election Officials on Threats to Election Workers**  
**August 26, 2021**

Good afternoon. I appreciate the willingness of so many of you to be with us today to discuss threats to the safety of election officials and election workers. I am doubly appreciative of your willingness to do so on relatively short notice.

But as you well know, this is a problem that will not wait.

Moreover, it is a problem that is the subject of intense focus by the highest levels of the Department of Justice. That is why I am joined today by the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, and the Director of the FBI.

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow. Protection of that right is a top priority of the Justice Department. Indeed, it was one of the principal reasons for the Department's founding in 1870.

Today, we must protect not only the right of eligible voters to vote. We must also protect those who administer our voting systems from threats and intimidation. Only by protecting those who administer the election process can we ensure that the right to vote, itself, is protected.

But no one needs to tell you that. Indeed, you have been making the point publicly and repeatedly. And we have heard you.

In June of this year, I publicly noted "the dramatic increase in menacing and violent threats against all manner of state and local election workers, ranging from the highest administrators to volunteer poll workers." Those threats, I said, "undermine our electoral process."

And I promised that the Department's Civil Rights, Criminal and National Security Divisions, the 93 United States Attorneys, and the FBI, would investigate and prosecute any violations of federal law.

Two weeks later, I announced that the Deputy Attorney General would issue a directive to all federal prosecutors and the FBI, which would "highlight the prevalence of these threats and instruct them to prioritize" investigating and prosecuting them. That same day, the Deputy Attorney General issued the directive and launched a law enforcement task force specifically aimed at combatting threats against election officials and election workers.

The Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General and Director of the FBI will say more about that task force in a few moments.

We are, of course, under no illusions that our expressions of concern and assignment of law enforcement resources has solved this problem. I have personally listened to some of the testimony offered at the July 28 House of Representatives committee hearing concerning threats to election workers.

And I have read media reports of the threats recounted at the conferences held this month by the National Association of State Election Directors and by the National Association of Secretaries of State.

I want to assure you that our attention to this issue will not wane. The Department is committed to investigating and prosecuting violations of federal law against election officials and election workers, and to supporting your safety and security.



To help us help you, I urge that you preserve and immediately provide to the FBI any threatening communications you receive in any form. Subsequent speakers will explain the best way to transmit that information to the Bureau.

When the DOJ speakers conclude, we will turn the microphone over to those of you on this call. Hearing your concerns directly will help us organize the Department's enforcement efforts in a way that is most responsive to the problems you are seeing at ground level.

I am now pleased to turn the program over to the Deputy Attorney General, who is leading our threats-against-election-workers task force.

Before I do, I want to thank each of you for the vital work you do – day in and day out – to protect the right of Americans to vote. I recognize that your work has become far more difficult and dangerous, which makes your commitment to public service all the more extraordinary and important.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks Announcing Lawsuit Against the State of Texas to Stop Unconstitutional Senate Bill 8**  
**September 9, 2021**

Good afternoon.

Last week, after the Supreme Court allowed Texas Senate Bill 8 to take effect, I said that the Justice Department was evaluating all options to protect the constitutional rights of women and other persons.

Today, after a careful assessment of the facts and the law, the Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against the State of Texas. Our position is set out in detail in our complaint. Its basis is as follows.

SB8 bans nearly all abortions in the state after six weeks of pregnancy – before many women even know they are pregnant and months before a pregnancy is viable. It does so even in cases of rape, sexual abuse or incest.

And it further prohibits any effort to aid the doctors who provide pre-viability abortions or the women who seek them.

The Act is clearly unconstitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent. Those precedents hold, in the words of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, that “[r]egardless of whether exceptions are made for particular circumstances, a State may not prohibit any woman from making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability.”

Texas does not dispute that its statute violates Supreme Court precedent. Instead, the statute includes an unprecedented scheme to, in the Chief Justice’s words, “insulate the State from responsibility.”

It does not rely on the State’s executive branch to enforce the law, as is the norm in Texas and everywhere else.

Rather, the statute deputizes all private citizens – without any showing of personal connection or injury – to serve as bounty hunters, authorized to recover at least \$10,000 per claim from individuals who facilitate a woman’s exercise of her constitutional rights.

The obvious – and expressly acknowledged – intention of this statutory scheme is to prevent women from exercising their constitutional rights by thwarting judicial review for as long as possible. Thus far, the law has had its intended effect.

Because the statute makes it too risky for an abortion clinic to stay open, abortion providers have ceased providing services. This leaves women in Texas unable to exercise their constitutional rights and unable to obtain judicial review at the very moment they need it.

This kind of scheme to nullify the Constitution of the United States is one that all Americans – whatever their politics or party – should fear. If it prevails, it may become a model for action in other areas, by other states, and with respect to other constitutional rights and judicial precedents.

Nor need one think long or hard to realize the damage that would be done to our society if states were allowed to implement laws that empower any private individual to infringe on another’s constitutionally protected rights in this way.

The United States has the authority and responsibility to ensure that no state can deprive individuals of their constitutional rights through a legislative scheme specifically designed to prevent the vindication of those rights.

The United States also brings this suit to assert other federal interests that SB8 unconstitutionally impairs. Among other things, SB8 conflicts with federal law by prohibiting federal agencies from exercising their authorities and carrying out their responsibilities under federal laws relating to abortion services.

It also subjects federal employees and non-governmental partners who implement those laws to civil liability and penalties.

Among the federal agencies and programs whose operations the statute unconstitutionally restricts are the Labor Department's Job Corps Program, the Defense Department's TRICARE Health Program, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Bureau of Prisons, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Office of Personnel Management.

The complaint therefore seeks a declaratory judgment that SB8 is invalid under the Supremacy Clause and the Fourteenth Amendment, is preempted by federal law, and violates the doctrine of intergovernmental immunity.

The United States also seeks a permanent and preliminary injunction prohibiting enforcement of the statute against the State of Texas – including against the State's officers, employees and agents, and private parties it has effectively deputized who would bring suit under SB8.

The Department of Justice has a duty to defend the Constitution of the United States and to uphold the rule of law. Today, we fulfill that duty by filing the lawsuit I have just described.

Now, before I take some questions, I want to say a few words to the American people on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

That day is seared into all of our memories. Nothing we can do or say can replace the loss so many endured that day. Nothing can change the profound way the events of September 11th altered us, individually and collectively as a nation.

And let there be no doubt: the threat from terrorists, from foreign terrorists like those involved in the September 11th attack, is one we must constantly guard against.

But what we can do – and what we have done – is learn from the past to better anticipate and prepare for the next threat and to seek to disrupt it.

As we mark this anniversary, we rededicate ourselves at the Justice Department to doing all we can to protect the American people from terrorism in all its forms – whether originating from abroad or at home – and to doing so in a manner that is consistent with our values and the rule of law.

With that, I'm happy to take a few questions.

**Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks at the 2021 International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference**  
**September 13, 2021**

Good morning. It is a privilege to speak to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – you are an extraordinary organization, comprised of global leaders of one of the world’s most critical professions.

For over 125 years, you have helped shape policing. Your expertise is relied on by law enforcement leaders across the world, including by those of us at the Justice Department.

I want to thank your president, Chief Renaud, as well as Mr. Talucci and Mr. Cunningham, for their stewardship of your organization.

I know you were all looking forward to gathering together in New Orleans this year.

At this difficult time for the city, I want to express my thanks to the New Orleans Police Department, which continues to work to protect the health, safety and welfare of the city’s residents.

I also want to express my deepest sympathy to all of those who were affected by the storm.

Like all of us in law enforcement, I spend a lot of time thinking about crises, big and small.

I am reminded every day that police officers are public servants, who step in to keep their communities safe in extraordinarily difficult situations.

One of the most painful examples, of course, was a day that is on all of our minds this week: 9/11.

This weekend, I was at ground zero to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the attack.

Twenty years later, the loss and destruction of that day is still too much to comprehend. So, too, is the bravery that was exhibited by the NYPD and the city’s other first responders, so many of whom sacrificed their lives to save others.

We can never replace the incalculable loss of that day, but we will never stop striving to serve in a way that honors their legacy.

At the Justice Department, we believe that policing is an indispensable profession.

And we know that the IACP and law enforcement officers across the country are our indispensable partners.

The Justice Department cannot fulfill its public safety mission without you and without close collaboration with you.

We know that you are feeling the strain of the past year and a half in many ways.

So let me reinforce what I have said in many of my conversations with you and our other law enforcement partners. We want to work with you: to keep our communities safe; to protect the health and wellness of the officers who put their lives on the line; and to promote strong relationships between law enforcement and the public we serve.

Like any good partner, we come to you with humility and honesty. We know that we cannot succeed without you, and we know that you will always have valuable insights to share with the Justice Department.

Our commitment to operating this way includes being humble and honest about how we carry out the department's obligation to ensure constitutional policing practices throughout the country.

Because we value your partnership, I want to use this opportunity to break some news, but also to demonstrate the transparent and collaborative way we are approaching our work.

It is no secret that the Justice Department believes in the value of pattern-or-practice investigations.

Those investigations and the resulting settlements have led to significant improvements in police departments across the country. That, in turn, increases community trust, which is essential to making your difficult jobs safer and more effective.

It is also no secret that the monitorships associated with some of those settlements have led to frustrations and concerns within the law enforcement community.

We hear you, and we take those concerns seriously.

That is why, in one of my first acts as Attorney General, I asked Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta to conduct a review of what can be done to ensure that monitorships are independent, highly qualified and free of conflicts of interest.

As part of that review, the department convened over 50 listening sessions to hear about how we can improve monitorships.

That involved listening to police chiefs, including IACP members and leaders.

As always, we are grateful for the candid and constructive insight provided.

Associate Attorney General Gupta has now finished her review.

With your help, the department has found that – while consent decrees and monitorships are important tools to increase transparency and accountability – the department can and should do more to improve their efficiency and efficacy.

The Associate Attorney General has recommended – and I have accepted – a set of 19 actions that the department will take to address those concerns.

Those actions reflect the following five principles, which will guide our use of monitorships with police departments going forward:

First, monitorships must be designed to minimize the cost to jurisdictions and to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

Monitoring is a public service, and there should be no question that the monitors' commitment is to the department and community they serve – not to their bottom line.

To this end, future consent decrees will include caps on monitors' fees and will restrict the ability of monitors to serve on multiple monitoring teams at the same time.

Second, monitors must be accountable for the work they do. Going forward, a monitor will be given a set term that can only be renewed after an assessment of the monitor's performance and cost-effectiveness.

Third, monitors should assess compliance consistently across jurisdictions.

Today, the Associate Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights have announced that they will be convening a group to begin work on a set of best practices, assessment tools and training materials that can better standardize monitors' work.

Fourth, monitors must engage in sustained and meaningful community engagement.

And finally, monitors must be incentivized to efficiently bring consent decrees to an end.

Organizational change takes time, but a consent decree cannot last forever.

We will require our consent decrees to include a court hearing after no more than five years, to assess whether termination of the decree is warranted.

To the extent that full compliance has not yet been achieved, departments will be invited to ask a court for partial termination and to use the hearing as an opportunity to make a plan for getting over the finish line.

I am grateful for the Associate Attorney General's thoughtful work on this important topic. I encourage you to continue sharing your feedback with the department.

Your voice and your insight will help us as we work towards sustainable solutions to difficult issues.

I know that we all share a deep commitment to public safety, officer health and wellness and constitutional policing.

I am confident that by working openly and honestly with each other, we can best serve our colleagues in uniform as well as the communities that entrust us to keep them safe.

I hope very much that we will be able to meet in person soon.

In the meantime, please accept my sincere gratitude for everything you do for the policing profession and for our country.

**Attorney General Garland Remarks to the Judicial Conference of the U.S.**  
**September 27, 2021**

Although I love my current job, I have to say that I've missed you. I've missed my cases, my clerks, and my colleagues on the bench. I've missed the camaraderie of the Conference. I've missed the sense of shared purpose of the Executive Committee.

And I've missed the way in which Conference committee work helps to create and cement a feeling that judges are not just individual actors, but part of a separate and independent institution with unique constitutional responsibilities.

Most of all -- after learning that I am now listed after the "v." in multiple cases -- I miss my judicial immunity. (In the absence of an in-person conference, it's difficult to be sure you understand from my facial expression that that was a joke. It was.)

There were, however, some downsides to my previous role that are not present in my current one. In my previous role, I was forbidden from rendering advisory opinions.

Now, I do so all the time. On some days, I do six such previously forbidden things before breakfast. In my previous role, I had to wait patiently until an interesting case came before me. And then I had to wait several months -- actually, more -- before the opinion in the case was published and had any effect in the real world.

Now, if I see something wrong in an urgent report -- or even in the morning newspaper -- I can do something about it before the end of the day.

And in my previous role, I seldom heard more than a handful of arguments on a single day. On a single non-argument day, I seldom worked on more than half that many separate issues. Now, people argue with me all day long. And the number of issues I have to think about in a single day is many times greater than before.

With some generalization to prevent inappropriate disclosure, here are the matters I dealt with just yesterday: the appropriate position for the government to take in several pieces of litigation involving questions of constitutional, statutory, and administrative law; an FBI briefing on a range of national security threats, international and domestic terrorism, and pending criminal investigations, including investigations of cyber intrusions; legal advice regarding a question of executive branch authority; an issue of civil rights enforcement; national anti-narcotics and anti-violent crime strategies; our strategic engagement with Mexico; DOJ personnel appointments; and -- most difficult of all -- the preparation of these remarks.

So, the new job is different from the old one. But there is one way in which they are both the same. As it was when I was a judge, my role as AG is to uphold the rule of law and to ensure equal justice under law. Of course, the tools I have as AG are different from those I had as a judge.

As AG, my job is to ensure that the Justice Department adheres to the norms that have become part of the Department's DNA since Ed Levi's tenure as the first post-Watergate Attorney General: the norms of

independence from improper influence, of the principled exercise of discretion, and of treating like cases alike.

Upholding those norms is the only way that the Justice Department can retain the trust of the American people. Upholding those norms is our number one priority, every day.

Now, I am sure there is something else I should say on this, the occasion of my first remarks as a guest of the Conference.

When I think back to the remarks I heard other guests give during the 7 years that I was a member of the Conference, I do recall some frequent themes: “you judges are wrong about the law on issue X; you are spending too much money on Y; or, it’s time to impose legislative branch discipline on the judiciary.”

Well, I do not intend to draw upon those themes. To the contrary, I would like to mention three areas of mutual concern upon which we are making significant progress.

First, judicial security.

This March, the Department formed a Task Force to address the Safety of Federal Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Agents, Judges, and Members of Congress. A Judicial Security Group jointly formed by the AO and the Department now meets monthly to discuss judicial security matters. I want to thank Judges McKeague and Sullivan for their leadership on this issue.

One particularly important recommendation of the Task Force relates to judges’ home security. As all of you know, for years judges have been raising concerns about antiquated options provided by the Home Intrusion Detections Systems program.

With Judges McKeague and Sullivan’s leadership, the AO urged the Marshals Service to provide for a reimbursable contract, so that federal judges can procure their own commercially available home security systems with current security features. I am happy to report that this will indeed be an option.

Second, detention.

I know that judges have expressed concern that the Administration’s policy of eliminating the use of privately operated detention facilities may create disruption and complications when pretrial detainees are housed far from the courthouse and without easy access to their counsel and families.

The Department is very sensitive to these concerns, and I would like to provide you with an update. When the Presidential Executive Order on this subject was issued on January 26th, the U.S. Marshals Service had contracts with 16 private detention facilities. 10 of them have expired or are expiring in 2021. The rest are set to expire between 2022 and 2025.

DOJ has focused on designing plans that minimize the disruption to the judiciary, inmates, families, and counsel. As of today, the Marshals Service has successfully found facilities for detainees in 9 of the 10 privately operated facilities whose contracts expire this year. The Marshals are signing a 6-month extension with the 10th facility in order to continue to explore a local solution. And the Marshals are devising strategies for the remaining contracts that do not expire this year.



I want to thank Judge Mauskopf and the district judges who engaged with DOJ directly on this issue. Chief Judge Rosenthal was instrumental in the process that resulted in Willacy County agreeing to operate its local facility to house federal pretrial inmates. And Chief Judge SaBRAW has worked tirelessly to find a local solution in San Diego. I have personally been working on the San Diego problem since I visited that US Attorney's office there 2 weeks ago.

Finally, cybersecurity.

Cyber threats are among the most significant challenges our country faces. Like the other institutions of government, the courts are targets of bad actors ranging from nation states to criminal organizations to lone disruptors.

The potential threats range from rendering your systems inoperable; to exfiltrating data regarding courts, litigants, and court personnel; to publishing all of your personal emails online.

The Department and the Judicial Conference are now working together to address these threats. First, we have designated senior personnel from DOJ and the FBI to advise the judiciary's newly formed Cybersecurity Task Force regarding the cyber threats the Judiciary faces.

Second, the Department recently convened an Executive Branch meeting to reach a consensus in favor of sharing classified, actionable intelligence with the Judiciary's network defenders. And, as a result, the Department of Homeland Security recently assigned a senior official to work with the AO to develop an information-sharing solution.

In short, if it sounds like I am saying that the Attorney General has heard your concerns, you are right. Of course, it wasn't very hard to get the AG to hear those concerns because I was the one who was voicing them from the judicial side of the table the past few years.

I served on the Judicial Security Committee when we first broached the subject of home security systems. I served on the Executive Committee when we first engaged MITRE to analyze the vulnerability of our computer systems, and when we fought to get security clearances for the AO's network defenders. And I also served on the Executive Committee when we met with successive AGs to ensure that detention facilities and residential reentry centers were located within a reasonable range of the relevant courthouses.

Eventually, of course, the Conference will have concerns that I have not previously voiced as a member. Please be assured that, at least as long as I am AG, the Conference will always have a willing listener and eager partner in our shared project of ensuring adherence to the rule of law and making real the promise of equal justice under law.

## **NEW MEDIA POLICY STATEMENTS AND RELEASES**

### **Marc Raimondi's Statement**

**May 7, 2021**

"While rare, the Department follows the established procedures within its media guidelines policy when seeking legal process to obtain telephone toll records and non-content email records from media members as part of a criminal investigation into the unauthorized disclosure of classified information. The targets of these investigations are not the news media recipients but rather those with access to the national defense information who provided it to the media and thus failed to protect it as lawfully required."

**Anthony Coley's Statement**

**June 5, 2021**

“DOJ has now completed a review to determine all instances in which the Department had pending compulsory requests from reporters in leak investigations. Going forward, consistent with the President’s direction, this Department of Justice — in a change to its long-standing practice — will not seek compulsory legal process in leak investigations to obtain source information from members of the news media doing their jobs. The Department strongly values a free press, protecting First Amendment values, and is committed to taking all appropriate steps to ensure the independence of journalists.”

**Readout of Attorney General's Meeting with News Media Representatives**  
**June 14, 2021**

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland met with representatives from the news media today following the recent notifications that the Justice Department had obtained reporter records in the course of leak investigations. As previously announced, the department will no longer use compulsory process to obtain reporters' source information when they are doing their jobs.

The group had a productive conversation about the need for new rules implementing the policy change. During the discussion the department made clear that reporters were never the subject or the target of the recent investigations. The Attorney General and the media representatives agreed on the need for strong, durable rules.

In the coming weeks the Attorney General will develop and distribute to the field a memo detailing the current policy. The Attorney General committed to working with members of the news media to codify the memo setting out these new rules into regulation.

Attending on behalf of the department, in addition to the Attorney General, were: Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco; John P. Carlin, Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General; Matthew Klapper, Chief of Staff to the Attorney General; Kate Heinzelman, Chief Counselor to the Attorney General; Anthony Coley, Director of Public Affairs and Senior Advisor to the Attorney General; Emily Loeb, Associate Deputy Attorney General; and David Newman, Associate Deputy Attorney General. The news industry media representatives included: Bruce Brown, Executive Director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; AG Sulzberger, Chairman and Publisher, The New York Times; David McCraw, Deputy General Counsel, The New York Times; Fred Ryan, Publisher and CEO, The Washington Post; Sally Buzbee, Executive Editor, The Washington Post; Jay Kennedy, Vice President, General Counsel & Labor, The Washington Post; Sam Feist, Senior Vice President and Washington Bureau Chief, CNN; and David Vigilante, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, CNN.

**DOJ Formally Adopts New Policy Restricting Use of Compulsory Process to Obtain Reporter Information**  
**July 19, 2021**

The U.S. Department of Justice today formally adopted a new policy that restricts the use of compulsory process to obtain information from, or records of, members of the news media acting within the scope of newsgathering activities. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland announced the new policy, effective immediately, in a memo to Department leadership.

The Attorney General also reiterated his support for the durability of these policy changes. To further protect members of the news media in a manner that will be enduring, he asked the Deputy Attorney General to undertake a review process to further explain, develop, and codify the policy announced today into Department regulations. He also reaffirmed the Department's support for congressional legislation to protect members of the news media.

The group had a productive conversation about the need for new rules implementing the policy change. During the discussion the department made clear that reporters were never the subject or the target of the recent investigations. The Attorney General and the media representatives agreed on the need for strong, durable rules.

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## ARTICLES

### [Washington Post: Opinion: Merrick Garland: It is time for Congress to act again to protect the right to vote, by Merrick B. Garland](#)

**August 5, 2021**

Our society is shaped not only by the rights it declares but also by its willingness to protect and enforce those rights. Nowhere is this clearer than in the area of voting rights.

Fifty-six years ago Friday, the Voting Rights Act became law. At the signing ceremony, President Lyndon B. Johnson rightly called it “one of the most monumental laws in the entire history of American freedom.”

Prior attempts to protect voting rights informed his assessment. The 15th Amendment promised that no American citizen would be denied the right to vote on account of race. Yet for nearly a century following the amendment’s ratification, the right to vote remained illusory for far too many.

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 marked Congress’s first major civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. That law authorized the attorney general to sue to enjoin racially discriminatory denials of the right to vote. Although the Justice Department immediately put the law to use, it quickly learned that bringing case-by-case challenges was no match for systematic voter suppression.

Things would not have changed without the civil rights movement’s persistent call to action. By the time a 25-year-old John Lewis was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., the Justice Department had been embroiled in voting rights litigation against the surrounding county for four years. Although the county had approximately 15,000 Black citizens of voting age, the number of Black registered voters had only risen from 156 to 383 during those years.

By 1965, it was clear that protecting the right to vote required stronger tools. The Voting Rights Act provided them. Central to the law was its “preclearance” provision, which prevented jurisdictions with a history of discriminatory voting practices from adopting new voting rules until they could show the Justice Department or a federal court that the change would have neither a racially discriminatory purpose nor a racially discriminatory result.

By any measure, the preclearance regime was enormously effective. While it was in place, the Justice Department blocked thousands of discriminatory voting changes that would have curtailed the voting rights of millions of citizens in jurisdictions large and small.

One thwarted change involved McComb, Miss. A large group of Black residents in the city had long voted at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, which was close to their homes on the east side of railroad tracks that run through the city. In 1997, the city tried to move that group’s assigned polling place to the American Legion Hut on the west side of the tracks. To cross those tracks, Black voters on the east side — many of whom lacked transportation — would have had to travel substantial distances to find a safe crossing. Recognizing that difficulty, the Justice Department blocked the change.

While the Voting Rights Act gave the Justice Department robust authority, it also imposed checks on that power. Jurisdictions had the option to go to federal court to show that their voting changes were lawful. This ensured fairness and accountability, but without the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness that existed prior to 1965. It was a balance that worked and received broad support: Congressional reauthorizations of the act were signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1970, President Gerald Ford in 1975, President Ronald Reagan in 1982 and President George W. Bush in 2006.

That invaluable framework was upended in 2013, when the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* effectively eliminated the act's preclearance protections. Without that authority, the Justice Department has been unable to stop discriminatory practices before they occur. Instead, the Justice Department has been left with costly, time-consuming tools that have many of the shortcomings that plagued federal law prior to 1965.

Notwithstanding these setbacks, the Justice Department is using all its current legal authorities to combat a new wave of restrictive voting laws. But if the Voting Rights Act's preclearance provision were still operative, many of those laws would likely not have taken effect in the first place.

In a column published after his death, Lewis recalled an important lesson taught by Martin Luther King Jr.: "Each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something."

On this anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, we must say again that it is not right to erect barriers that make it harder for millions of eligible Americans to vote. And it is time for Congress to act again to protect that fundamental right.

**From:** Rossi, Rachel (OASG)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW BY 4:30 PM - Civil Rights Accomplishments Fact Sheets  
**To:** Visser, Tim (OAG)  
**Sent:** October 3, 2021 7:36 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** Fact Sheet DOJ Hate Crimes final (002).docx, Police Reform Fact Sheet For Review.docx, Civil Rights Actions Fact Sheet final.docx, Fact Sheet-Voting Actions DID\_clean.docx

The Hate Crimes fact sheet may be useful.

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**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** Rossi, Rachel (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Hahn, Mary (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW BY 4:30 PM - Civil Rights Accomplishments Fact Sheets

+ Mary

(Sorry I missed you, Mary!)

---

**From:** Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** Rossi, Rachel (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Hyun, Peter (OASG) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW BY 4:30 PM - Civil Rights Accomplishments Fact Sheets  
**Importance:** High

You may want to take a look at some of these (hate crimes and police reform). Note the 4:30 deadline.

---

**From:** Iverson, Dena (PAO) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** Clarke, Kristen (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) <(b) (6)>; Braden, Myesha (ODAG) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Bradford, Aryele (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Mastropasqua, Kristina (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW BY 4:30 PM - Civil Rights Accomplishments Fact Sheets  
**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon,

Apologies for the tight turn-around time we have on these but we need any edits to the four attached civil rights fact sheets **by 4:30 PM TODAY** so that we can get these in the DAG and AG's books in time for the weekend. Please send any edits back to me and I will incorporate and finalize.

Thank you,  
Dena

Dena Iverson  
Principal Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6) - Office  
(b) (6) - Cell  
(b) (6)



**From:** Cheung-Smith, Bridget (CRT)  
**Subject:** FW: CRT Weekly Report to AG 10 06 2021  
**To:** AGWeeklyReport (JMD); Braden, Myesha (ODAG); Carlin, John P. (ODAG); Colangelo, Matthew (OASG); Gupta, Vanita (OASG); Hyun, Peter (OASG); Mitchell, Kendall M. (PAO); Bradford, Aryele (PAO); Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG); Thompson, Karl (ODAG); Visser, Tim (OAG); West Rasmus, Emma (OASG); Grogg, Adam (OASG); Hahn, Mary (OASG)  
**Cc:** Smith, Johnathan (CRT); Calderon, Tovah R (CRT); Clarke, Kristen (CRT); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT); Friel, Gregory B (CRT); Herring, Oneshia (CRT); Howe, Suey (CRT); Karlan, Pamela (CRT); Moosy, Robert (CRT); Robins, Jennifer (CRT); Valderrama, Hillary (CRT); Wertz, Jeremy (CRT); Powers, John (CRT); Simon, Eliza (CRT); Heming Segal, Julia (CRT)  
**Sent:** October 6, 2021 3:59 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Attached:** CRT Weekly Report to AG 10 06 2021 - final.docx

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the AG/CRT Report for the week ending October 8, 2021.

Thank you,

*Bridget*

Bridget Cheung-Smith  
Supervisory Clerical, Contractor  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

October 6, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report for the Week Ending October 8, 2021

**Significant Activities Last Week, This Week, Next Week**

**LAST WEEK'S EVENTS  
(September 27, 2021– October 1, 2021)**

Not Responsive

**Voting**

*Executive Order 14019: Promoting Access to Voting.* (b)(5) per CRT  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# Not Responsive