

August 28, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the past presidents of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association (MBLA), we proudly and enthusiastically support the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael S. Rollins to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Ms. Rollins' commitment to public service is evident through her current role serving as the District Attorney of Suffolk County in Massachusetts, her prior roles serving as Chief Legal Counsel to the Massachusetts Port Authority, the General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. We are confident that Ms. Rollins is well-suited to take on this role, and given her breadth of professional and personal experiences, Ms. Rollins will have an immediate and positive impact as the next United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

By way of background, since 1973, the MBLA has served as a valuable network and visible presence for attorneys of color within the Massachusetts legal community. The MBLA has been instrumental in providing its members with professional development and career advancement through innovative programming, cutting-edge training, mentoring programs, and formal and informal networking opportunities. The membership of the MBLA includes lawyers in government, law firms, academia, and in-house companies throughout Massachusetts. Collectively, as past presidents of the MBLA, we have the requisite knowledge to speak to Ms. Rollins' candidacy for such a vital role in Massachusetts.

Ms. Rollins' commitment to public service is unparalleled. Ms. Rollins served as president of the MBLA from 2012 to 2013. Prior to that time, Ms. Rollins served in various leadership capacities within the organization. Ms. Rollins has been a staunch advocate for

diversity and inclusion initiatives. During her term as president of the MBLA, she focused on the recruitment, retention, and advancement of attorneys of color in Massachusetts. In particular, under her leadership, she spearheaded numerous innovative programs that allowed the organization's membership to establish more meaningful connections within the organization, to grow professionally, and to give back to the broader community through volunteer opportunities, including service to the youth and the homeless, and a focused effort on the rehabilitation of offenders.

During her term as president of MBLA, Ms. Rollins was known for her commitment and passion for justice and equity in the criminal justice system, and she has directed this passion to help transform the criminal justice system in her professional and personal capacities to date. In her capacity as Suffolk County District Attorney, Ms. Rollins has implemented numerous changes that help to address recidivism, in addition to a focused effort on serious offenses and offenders, while at the same time addressing other issues that impact criminal conduct, including mental illness and substance abuse. She has led the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office with integrity, coupled with empathy for the victims of crime. Her successful approach to justice and equity has been well-received by both the legal community and the community at large. Similarly, Ms. Rollins served with integrity and grace in her capacity as an Assistant United States Attorney, often handling complex investigations, while developing meaningful relationships with both law enforcement and other Assistant United States Attorneys locally and nationally. Collectively, these public service opportunities have allowed Ms. Rollins to develop a well-rounded legal foundation to handle and advise on complex civil and criminal matters, and these opportunities have allowed her to make meaningful and long-lasting improvements.

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts handles a wide range of complex investigations, and the office needs a leader who has integrity and the requisite level of experience necessary to make critical decisions that will ultimately impact the lives of many. There is no doubt that Ms. Rollins is an exceptional candidate who will lead with integrity, passion and grace. We are confident that, under her leadership as United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, victims of crimes will be well-served and that creative solutions, aligned with Main Justice's goals and directives, will be sought to prevent crime and to rehabilitate offenders.

We respectfully urge the Judicial Committee to favorably advance Ms. Rollins' nomination and for her to be confirmed as the first African American woman to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MBLA past president Doreen Rachal at 617-223-0311.

Sincere regards,

Wayne A. Budd
Senior Counsel, Goodwin Procter LLP

Fletcher Wiley
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Centaurus Group Ltd.

Richard A. Soden
Of Counsel, Goodwin Procter LLP

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