



March 5, 2025

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Opposition to the Nomination of Harmeet Dhillon as Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law ("Lawyers' Committee"), we urge you to oppose the nomination of Harmeet Dhillon for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. The Lawyers' Committee is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy that uses legal advocacy to achieve racial justice, fighting inside and outside the courts to ensure that Black people and other people of color have voice, opportunity, and power to make the promises of our democracy real. For more than sixty years, the Lawyers' Committee has been at the forefront of many of the most significant cases to advance racial equality and secure equal justice. Our mission and history make our organization uniquely qualified to comment on this nomination.

Every Assistant Attorney General who leads a division of the Justice Department has serious responsibilities as a trusted legal officer of our nation to uphold the rule of law, act with integrity, and seek justice for all Americans. Any future Assistant Attorney General must act impartially with a commitment to the independence of the U.S. Department of Justice ("the DOJ") and the enforcement of our country's civil rights laws. This is especially true of the head of the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, a crucial unit that helps protect and defend the civil rights of all Americans, including federal voting rights and election laws, which have been of the utmost importance for Black Americans and other people of color. The Civil Rights Division was founded nearly 70 years ago as part of the DOJ by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the country's first civil rights legislation passed since Reconstruction, as a means to enforce the Supreme Court's historic ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and to protect Black Americans' rights after decades of disenfranchisement at the state and local levels.

Given its pivotal role in enforcing the laws which uphold our democracy, we believe the Civil Rights Division deserves a leader more qualified than Ms. Dhillon, whose past litigation, comments, and behavior reveal her to be categorically unfit to serve as the country's next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. If the Senate entrusts the leadership of the Civil Rights Division to someone with a track record of sacrificing the truth and the law to political favoritism, it risks jeopardizing its duty and responsibility to protect everyday Americans from all forms of discrimination, both individual and systemic.

While serving as a legal advisor President Trump during his 2020 presidential campaign, Ms. Dhillon repeatedly made misleading and untrue public statements to support partisan attacks

on the election.¹ Before running for Chair of the Republican National Committee, she undermined American democracy by improperly calling for the Supreme Court to intervene and overturn valid election results, which would have subverted the will of the voters.² She has filed suits to make it harder for voters to cast ballots in states like Georgia and Pennsylvania, to force voter purges, and to allow legislatures—not voters—to decide elections.³ Furthermore, at her confirmation hearing, Ms. Dhillon refused to acknowledge her history of false claims, refused to commit that she would remain impartial if the President asked her to weaponize DOJ resources to attack his political enemies, and refused to commit to enforcing the Voting Rights Act. She also declined to commit to taking enforcement actions against state laws that violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which would leave voters who have had their votes denied unprotected by the federal government.⁴

Altogether, Ms. Dhillon is actively attempting to manipulate the law and undermine democracy with her disqualifying conduct, and her confirmation would severely undermine and jeopardize the founding purpose of the Civil Rights Division. Her actions and stated unwillingness to prioritize the Division’s mission to protect the constitutional and civil rights of all Americans over her loyalty to the President indicates that she will not objectively administer justice if confirmed. And it makes it doubtful that she would maintain independence and resist the Trump Administration’s calls to further dismantle federal civil rights infrastructure while weaponizing what remains for political gain. For these reasons, the Lawyers’ Committee strongly objects to her confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to the nomination of Harmeet Dhillon for Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights. We urge the Senate to reject her nomination. We welcome the opportunity to discuss her nomination with your office further; if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alex Ault, Policy Counsel, at aault@lawyerscommittee.org or Mark Villarica, Policy Assistant, at mvillarica@lawyerscommittee.org.

Sincerely,



Damon T. Hewitt
President & Executive Director

¹ David Nakamura and Maeve Reston, *Trump pick for DOJ civil rights draws blowback from advocacy leaders*, Wash. Post (Dec. 10, 2024) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/12/10/trump-civil-rights-justice-department-dhillon/>.

² Matt Wilstein, *Trump Lawyer Calls for Supreme Court to ‘Step in and Do Something’ to Help President Win*, Daily Beast (Nov. 5, 2020), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-lawyer-calls-for-supreme-court-to-step-in-and-do-something-to-help-president-win/>.

³ See Brief of Amicus Curiae The Republican National Committee In Support Of Appellants/Petitioners, 599 U. S. 1 (2023) (Nos. 21-1086, 21-1087); Brief of Citizens United, Citizens United Foundation, And The Presidential Coalition As Amici Curiae In Support Of Petitioners (Sup. Ct. 2023), *Moore v. Harper*, 600 U.S. 1 (2023) (No. 21-1271); Harmeet Dhillon, *Dhillon on Voter Fraud Concerns*, Dhillon Law Group, Inc. (June 19, 2020), <https://www.dhillonlaw.com/dhillon-on-voter-fraud-concerns/>.

⁴ See *Nomination Hearing*, U.S. S. Comm. on Judiciary, 119th Cong. (Feb. 26, 2025), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/02/26/2025/nominations>.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Ault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" and last name "Ault" clearly distinguishable.

Alex Ault
Policy Counsel
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law