

## Kristen Clarke



Kristen Clarke is the Bureau Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York Attorney General's Office. In this capacity, she helps promote civil rights enforcement in the State of New York under the leadership of Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. Using federal, state, and local civil rights laws, such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act and other landmark laws, the Bureau investigates and prosecutes discrimination in a variety of areas.

Recent cases handled by the Bureau have helped to promote voting rights, access to fair housing and lending opportunities, access to equal employment and educational opportunities and equal access for individuals with disabilities. In addition, the Bureau has worked to combat discrimination and harassment in the workplace, barriers to re-entry and police misconduct. The Bureau's goal is to combat discrimination faced by all New Yorkers, particularly among the most vulnerable individuals in our state. In 2013, the Bureau issued a groundbreaking report regarding the New York City Police Department's Stop and Frisk Program.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Ms. Clarke served as the Co-Director of the Political Participation Group at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. where she managed the activities of the organization's legal program in the areas of voting rights and election law. Prior to joining LDF, Ms. Clarke worked for several years in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program.

Ms. Clarke has testified before both chambers of Congress, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, the New York State Assembly, and other state legislatures on a range of civil rights matters. She also writes and comments frequently on civil rights matters. Publications include *Barack Obama and African American Empowerment: The Rise of Black America's New Leadership* (edited with Dr. Manning Marable) and *Seeking Higher Ground: The Hurricane Katrina Crisis Race and Public Policy Reader* (edited with Dr. Manning Marable). Ms. Clarke received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. She has received numerous awards for her civil rights work including a New York State Senate, Proclamation for Outstanding Civil Rights Work; an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award and Columbia Law School's Paul Robeson Distinguished Alumni Award.