

**Kim M. Parker, Esq.**

February 11, 2021

Dear District Leaders, Elected Officials, Club Presidents, State Committee and Community Members,

Hoping this letter finds you and your loved ones well and safe.

**I am pleased to inform you that I have been found “most highly qualified” by the New York County Independent Judicial Screening Panel for the Civil Court of the City of New York.** This is a tremendous honor and I am both humbled and grateful for their support and confidence. I write to ask for your support as I continue to seek a Civil Court judgeship.

I would like to share with you my personal story and the triumphs and challenges that have made me who I am. They have inspired my commitment to bringing justice, impartiality and trust to the bench.

My mother, a Korean immigrant, and my father, an African American Army veteran, married in 1968, just after the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court landmark case, Loving v. Virginia. I was born in 1970 and raised an only child in Harlem at a time when being biracial was not widely accepted. I was caught between two cultures and struggled with being accepted by peers and family. My father traveled for work and my mother did not speak much English. As a result, I turned to residents within my community for their knowledge and guidance. I asked questions often and listened intently, which paved the way for me to focus on my education.

I graduated with honors from Hampton University a Historically Black College & University (HBCU). Upon graduating, I worked full time to support my mother and myself while attending a 4-year evening program to study law at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. While attending law school, I volunteered to help children in foster care. I then became a foster mother to a five-month-old African - American boy who I later adopted as my son, Johnnie. Adopting was important to me because I understood as a black child, the difficulties he would face. I worked full time, raised my infant son, and graduated law school in 3 1/2 years.

Upon graduating from law school, I wanted to give back to the community that helped raise me by opening my law office in Harlem. I have been a practicing attorney for almost 21 years, primarily handling litigation in Civil Court. Through the years, I have represented senior citizens, teachers, nurses, bus drivers, fast food workers, immigrants, retail workers and other members of the community.

Currently, I am also an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)/Hearing Officer for the Office of Administrative Trials & Hearings (OATH). As an ALJ, I work in the trial part where I conduct hearings, hear sworn testimony, review evidence and write decisions on cases involving City summons including criminal justice reform summons. I also volunteer in our court system as a Small

Claims Court Arbitrator and in the Access to Justice Volunteer Attorney Program. While in law school, I worked in the Bronx District Attorney's Office writing Appellate briefs and I interned for Hon. Laura Safer Espinoza in Bronx Criminal Court.

I have made volunteering in public service an important part of my life. I have volunteered with President Obama's Clemency Project, The DOE Fund, 100 Suits for 100 Men, the National Action Network (NAN) with Rev. Al Sharpton and Catholic Charities.

In 2020, as Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch (MMB), I led a letter writing campaign along with several other organizations across the City to request Federal, State and City elected officials to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act 2020 to end racial and religious profiling, ban chokeholds and "no knock" warrants, classify lynching as a hate crime, limit military equipment on American streets, require body-worn cameras and establish uniform policies for the use of force. Currently, I represent NAACP as a stakeholder for Governor Cuomo's mandate for NYPD reform. Together with other stakeholders, I have met with Commissioner Dermot Shea to advocate reforming the NYPD. In the past, I have organized tours of Criminal court for students. And I've created workshops to provide free legal consultations, assistance with Certificates of Relief, voter registration and suit drives to assist formerly incarcerated citizens transition back into society.

My personal highlight occurred this year at the age of 50, in the middle of COVID-19, when I delivered my daughter, Kioka Kim. Needless to say, she is the joy of my life. While this year has given me one of my greatest blessings, it has also shown me how far racial equality still has to go. However, I believe this world will be more accepting of my daughter as a Black and Asian child.

In closing, I am a proud Black and Asian woman with an HBCU degree like our Vice President Kamala Harris. While my upbringing was challenging, I was determined to excel in life and help others like myself. My life experience and skill-set have instilled in me the temperament and breadth of knowledge to analyze the wide range of issues that confront judges daily and operate a courtroom efficiently. Moreover, when litigants see judges who look like them, it builds trust. That trust is reinforced when judges understand the stories of their lives without judgment.

If elected as a Civil Court Judge, you can be sure that everyone will be treated with respect, fairness and compassion in my courtroom.

**Thank you for considering my candidacy for Civil Court Judge of the City of New York.**

Warm Regards,



Kim M. Parker, Esq.