

Ms. AIYETORO. Ms. Aiyetoro.  
The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Aiyetoro, please.

#### STATEMENT OF ADJOA AIYETORO

Ms. AIYETORO. Thank you, Chairman Biden.

Chairman Biden and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing the National Conference of Black Lawyers, through me as the director, to present this testimony before the committee.

The National Conference of Black Lawyers is an organization of lawyers, judges, legal workers, and law students that was formed in 1968, specifically for the purpose of advocating for the rights of black people specifically, and people of color, the poor and the disadvantaged generally.

The organization has participated on all levels of advocacy, including litigation and public education. You have our written testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. And it will be placed in the record, the entire testimony.

Ms. AIYETORO. Thank you very much.

Our testimony discusses our position more fully than I will be able to do in the 5 minutes allotted. I would like to briefly address two main issues, however, in opposition to Judge Thomas' nomination.

First, it is important that the significance of the nominee's race to this process be explicitly in the record. We are disturbed that the assessment of this candidate may be less strenuous by those who view themselves as antiracist, because he is a black person who, like many other black people in his age group or who came before him, have risen to occupational levels that far exceed those of their parents and even their siblings.

We are disturbed that those who have adopted in deed, if not in words, the philosophy of white supremacy are embracing him, because his blackness serves to mislead many in assessing his record, a record which demonstrates, in large part, a disdain for the very remedies he utilized to advance, when applied to persons of color other than himself.

Those who are confused, well-meaning of all races, hold onto the hope not supported in his record, but somehow, if confirmed to the Supreme Court, he will support the law it is now for people of color, women and those in the fringes of society. They hope for a miracle.

We urge you to determine whether and how you are using this candidate's race and to decide to refuse to confirm, based on a record that demonstrates support for lawlessness and behavior that is below the standard to be demanded of a Supreme Court Justice.

It is true that the National Conference of Black Lawyers find a number of Judge Thomas' views to be in direct contradiction with the positions of this organization. We know you know this, because we have outlined some of those differences in our written submission. But his views also reflect a character that is below the standards this body should demand, a man who, despite the law of the land, refused to act to protect the rights of groups for whom he had

responsibility; a man who ignored codified ethical requirements and withheld information about the relationship between himself and the family of the principal shareholders in a lawsuit potentially costing them more than \$10 million; a man who sat on the advisory board of the Lincoln Review and attended a reception of the South African Ambassador, yet indicates to this committee that he did not know of any position in support of apartheid by the leadership of the review, and he himself did not support apartheid; a man who retracted position after position that he took prior to his nomination and urged you to look at only his and other nominees' comments as a judge, since they would be less effusive; a man who humiliated his sister and family, but now flaunts the sister, indicating her character is stronger than his.

This nomination is an insult to not only black people, not only the tradition of high integrity and character set by Thurgood Marshall, but to the ideals of the Constitution and the Constitutional Convention, that those who sit on the Highest Court will be those with whom we can look with pride and respect, although we may not always agree with them.

We cannot look with pride and respect at Clarence Thomas, but only with fear and trepidation, at how will continue to trample the rights of people of color, the disadvantaged and women, not in conformity to the law, but in disdain for it and their collective rights. We urge you to refuse to confirm.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Aiyetoro follows:]