



January 7, 2014

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**Support the Nomination of Debo P. Adegbile to be Assistant Attorney General for the  
Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the 75 undersigned organizations, we are writing to indicate our strongest possible support for the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Adegbile is a tireless advocate, a skilled litigator, and a well-respected member of the legal community who is extraordinarily qualified for and suited to this position.

Mr. Adegbile is one of the preeminent civil rights litigators of his generation. He is also a consensus builder. Mr. Adegbile has earned respect and admiration from a bipartisan set of colleagues, lawyers, and leaders, including former Solicitors General Paul Clement and Drew Days, because of his principled and measured approach to issues.

Throughout his career, Mr. Adegbile has distinguished himself as a highly effective and respected advocate who achieved successes both inside and outside the courtroom. The son of immigrants who worked his way from poverty to the top of the legal profession, Mr. Adegbile is a steadfast voice for equality and opportunity for all Americans.

Mr. Adegbile's professional experiences are varied and his accomplishments are myriad. He has worked as a litigator for a large corporate law firm, where he handled a variety of cases for corporate, governmental, individual, and not-for-profit clients; has argued before the Supreme Court twice; and has served for a decade in various leadership positions at the nation's first civil rights law firm, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where he oversaw cases in both the trial and appellate courts, while managing the legal staff. He currently serves as Senior Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Adegbile is exceptionally qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division at this time in history. As the nation's chief law enforcement officer on civil rights issues, he would bring a depth and breadth of understanding of federal civil rights laws, and their enforcement and application. He has litigated cases across civil rights subject areas, from voting rights to fair housing to employment discrimination to equal educational opportunity. He has practiced law at all levels, from the trial court to the Supreme Court, and has appeared in courts throughout the country. He twice defended the Voting Rights Act before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Act, which President Ronald Reagan called "the crown jewel of American liberties," was unanimously reauthorized by the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Mr. Adegbile is highly regarded for his leadership, judgment, and integrity. And Mr. Adegbile is involved with his community -- he presently serves on the Boards of Trustees of his college and middle school, and frequently speaks to students ranging in age from elementary school to law school about the importance of the Constitution, civil rights, and educational and professional opportunity. With his stellar career of more than a decade at one of the nation's leading civil rights law firms, and his work in the private and public



sectors, it is clear that Mr. Adegbile's skill set, talents, and experience make him the perfect choice to head the Civil Rights Division.

Mr. Adegbile would lead the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division with professionalism and a deep commitment to its important and historic mission of ensuring that our nation lives up to its promise of equality and justice for all. We urge the Senate to swiftly vote to confirm this extraordinary nominee. If you have any questions, please contact The Leadership Conference's Executive Vice President Nancy Zirkin or Senior Counsel Lisa Bornstein at (202) 466-3311.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute  
Advancement Project

AFL-CIO

African American Ministers In Action

Alliance for Justice

American Association for Affirmative Action

American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

American Federation of Government Employees

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

Americans for Financial Reform

Anti-Defamation League

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law

Campaign Legal Center

Center for Community Change

Children's Defense Fund

Communications Workers of America

Demos

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Earthjustice

Fair Elections Legal Network

FairVote

Freedom to Work

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

Hindu American Foundation

Hmong National Development, Inc.

Human Rights Campaign

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America,  
UAW

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Japanese American Citizens League

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

League of United Latin American Citizens

Legal Momentum

MALDEF  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Action Network  
National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Bar Association  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Urban League  
National Women's Law Center  
Native American Rights Fund  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Prison Policy Initiative  
Project Vote  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southern Coalition for Social Justice  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Wider Opportunities for Women