



January 6, 2014

**Via First Class Mail**

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Heart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

As the largest Arab American grassroots organization committed to protecting civil rights, promoting mutual understanding, and preserving Arab American cultural heritage, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) would like to express its strong 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. The Department of Justice plays an important role in protecting the civil rights of all minorities, including Arab-Americans. Mr. Adegbile is a tireless advocate, a skilled litigator, and a well-respected member of the legal community, and one of the preeminent civil rights lawyers of his generation.

The son of Irish and Nigerian immigrants who worked his way from poverty to the top of the legal profession, Debo Adegbile is a tireless voice for equality and opportunity for all Americans. He represented Hurricane Katrina evacuees in the first post-storm municipal election in New Orleans, public housing residents in action involving illegal police stops in New York, as well as pro bono clients in private practice in disability and domestic violence actions. Mr. Adegbile is also a bipartisan consensus builder. He worked on bipartisan reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006 which passed by a unanimous 98-0 vote in the U.S. Senate. Throughout his career, Mr. Adegbile has distinguished himself as a highly effective and respected advocate who has achieved successes both inside and outside the courtroom.

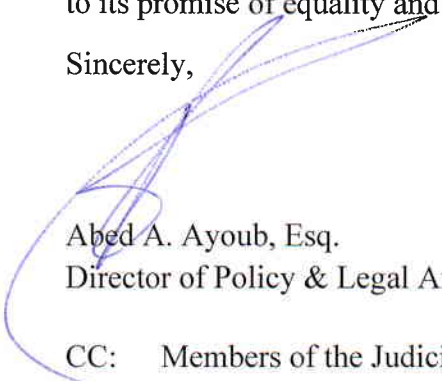
Mr. Adegbile has served as a leading attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc for more than ten years, where he oversaw cases in both the trial and appellate courts, while managing the legal staff. In 2010, Mr. Adegbile supervised the LDF team that litigated *Lewis v. City of Chicago*, an employment discrimination action brought on behalf of a class of African-American firefighter applicants. Along with co-counsel, the LDF team successfully litigated the case and achieved a rare unanimous ruling in a civil rights case before the United States Supreme Court. As a result of that victory, more than 100 of LDF's clients were hired as Chicago firefighters.

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.

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 the nation's leading civil rights law firm, 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. Please support his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,



Abed A. Ayoub, Esq.  
Director of Policy & Legal Affairs

CC: Members of the Judiciary Committee