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February 4, 2014

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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

In my capacity as a tenured Member of Congress and a lifelong advocate for civil rights and social justice in America, I write to express my unwavering support for the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile to become the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. I encourage his swift and expeditious confirmation.

I first came to know Mr. Adegbile through his work at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) when we were working to reauthorize sections of the Voting Rights Act before they expired in 2006. He was a trusted and committed advocate for reauthorization who worked closely with my staff, as well as other House and Senate staff, as a primary consultant on our legislative strategy throughout the bipartisan, bicameral reauthorization process. He was a key presenter at congressional briefings my office developed on the issue of voting rights and is an expert my staff consistently engages whenever I need to prepare legal briefs, develop published opinions on voting rights, or take any action which might impinge on the goals that the LDF or other civil rights groups are trying to accomplish.

Mr. Adegbile's broad legal experiences have made him an exemplary litigator and exceedingly qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division. He first worked at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, where he represented clients in the corporate, governmental, and not-for-profit sectors in a variety of complex commercial, criminal and civil rights cases.


He then transitioned to the LDF where he held various positions, including serving as LDF's Acting President and Director-Counsel.

I have personally witnessed Mr. Adegbile's command of the laws and the power of his advocacy as he argued two pivotal civil rights cases – *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder* – before the Supreme Court of the United States on behalf of the LDF.

Mr. Adegbile's fluency with the civil rights issues of today and the impactful work in which he has been centrally involved make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Mr. Adegbile's intelligence, legal acumen, experience, and commitment to his craft, reflect deeply on his ability to offer the Civil Rights Division outstanding leadership into the future. I strongly urge the Senate to promptly confirm Mr. Adegbile for the position of Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "L".

John Lewis
Member of Congress