



Commemorating 40 Years
Of Disability Advocacy
1973-2013

February 5, 2014

Dear Senator:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Rights Task Force urges you to confirm Debo Adegbile as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. CCD is a coalition of national disability-related organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures full equality, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The leadership of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice is of extraordinary importance to individuals with disabilities. The Division is charged with interpreting and enforcing key laws that are central to ensuring equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Among the rights the Division is responsible for enforcing are the rights of individuals with disabilities to be served in the most integrated setting appropriate, to equal opportunities in education, to fair treatment by the courts and by the criminal justice system, and to an equal opportunity to vote.

In recent years, the Division's work has resulted in dramatic improvements in the lives of thousands of individuals with disabilities. For example, its efforts to enforce the ADA's "integration mandate" and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* have resulted in settlement agreements in Georgia, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and New York that provide opportunities for people with disabilities who are needlessly confined in institutional settings to live in their own homes with appropriate services, and a settlement in Rhode Island that provides opportunities for people with disabilities to obtain employment services in mainstream employment settings. These opportunities not only enable people with disabilities to gain independence and choice and become full participants in their communities; they also enable states to realize cost savings by reallocating resources from expensive and outmoded institutional settings to more appropriate and cost-effective community settings. The Division has also played an important role in securing the removal of physical, communication and other barriers and enabling people with disabilities to access public accommodations (such as hotels, theaters, child care centers, private schools, and health care facilities) and public services (such as voting systems, public libraries, and transportation systems).

Debo Adegbile is exceptionally qualified to lead the Civil Rights Division. With a long and impressive career as a civil rights lawyer as well as a corporate lawyer, Mr. Adegbile brings a deep understanding of federal civil rights laws, their effective implementation, and their importance to the lives of individuals whom they were enacted to protect. He has litigated civil

rights cases involving a wide variety of important issues, including voting rights, fair housing, employment discrimination, and equal educational opportunities. He has practiced in trial and appellate courts across the country, as well as the Supreme Court. As a lawyer who has garnered widespread support and respect across the political spectrum, he is an ideal candidate to lead the Justice Department's civil rights enforcement.

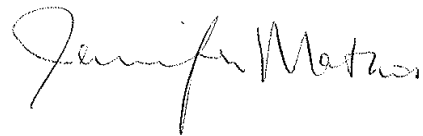
We are confident that Mr. Adegbile would be an excellent Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. We hope you will support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

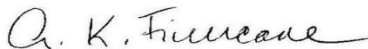
Sincerely,



Curt Decker
National Disability Rights Network



Jennifer Mathis
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law



Sandy Finucane
Epilepsy Foundation



Mark Richert
American Foundation for the Blind