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January 7, 2014

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 Senators Leahy and Grassley,

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice.

I have known Debo for well-over 30 years. We attended high school together at The Fieldston School in Bronx, New York. I can state unequivocally that I know of no finer individual and no one more qualified for the position to which he has been nominated.

I am a graduate of Cornell Law School (1992) and then served as a prosecutor in the Bronx District Attorney's Office. Assigned to both the Narcotics Bureau as well as the Felony Trial Bureau, I personally handled prosecutions against the most violent criminals in New York City in the mid-1990's. I interacted and worked with police officers from the Street Crime Unit and Narcotics Divisions, including undercover officers, on a daily basis.

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After the District Attorney's Office, I worked in a civil practice for 12 years before I was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to serve as a Judge in the Criminal Court of Kings County (Brooklyn, New York). I was twice appointed by the Mayor (2009, 2010) before returning to a law practice with my family.

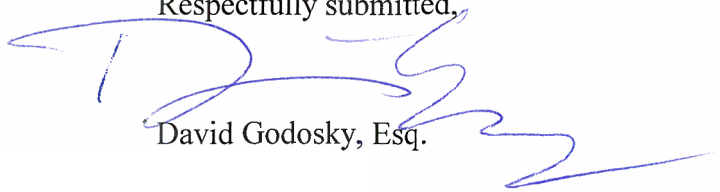
My experience as both a prosecutor and a judge makes me keenly aware of the necessary qualities in an individual to whom the power and responsibility over a division of the Department of Justice may be given. There is no question Debo possesses such qualities. He is scrupulously honest, has the highest integrity and is a fierce defender of the rule of law. Debo's life is not about seeking out the positions that are popular but, rather, seeking out and defending the positions that are just - under our laws and our Constitution.

The position Debo held at the Legal Defense Fund undoubtedly required him to pursue cases that would, by their very nature, antagonize persons and parties opposed to his clients. Such is the nature of advocacy. But defending the core principles of the United States Constitution sometimes requires a strong stomach as well as a thick skin. It requires someone who understands that these principles that we so cherish exist for the adulated as well as the despised. Debo has always understood that if these so-called "core values" are available only for some, then, in reality, they exist for none.

Quite simply, Debo is the person I would want as the prosecutor of a case if I was the victim or if I was the perpetrator. He will secure the rights of the victimized and defend the rights of the accused. He is the person I would most readily trust to make the right decisions in matters of life and death.

We, as a People, can certainly trust him to be an outstanding, honest and effective Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. We would be fortunate to have him in that position.

Respectfully submitted,



David Godosky, Esq.