



Yale Law School

DREW S. DAYS III · *Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law*

November 15, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Leahy:

As a former Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and Solicitor General, I write to express my strong support for the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile to become the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

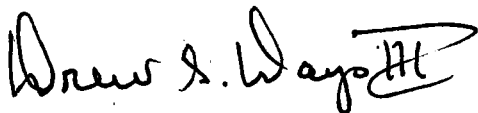
Mr. Adegbile's legal experience has been wide and varied. He began his career as an associate at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, where he litigated complex commercial and other cases. After moving to LDF, he rose through the organization, serving in several leadership roles including as Acting President and Director-Counsel, and now, with a legislative focus, he serves as Senior Counsel to your Judiciary Committee.

I came to know Mr. Adegbile through his work at LDF and consistently have been impressed by his advocacy, commitment, judgment and ability to speak effectively about civil rights issues in different contexts. Throughout, his balance and fundamental fairness in all he does are most impressive qualities. Indeed, I, myself, served as an LDF staff attorney before joining the Carter Administration Justice Department. Over the intervening years, I have followed closely its activities, including the outstanding work of talented lawyers like Mr. Adegbile. I have participated in meetings on legal issues with Mr. Adegbile, served as a judge in a moot court as he prepared himself for a recent Supreme Court argument, known him to give remarks at Yale Law School attended by me or my students, and to mentor several of my students during their work as LDF interns and beyond. Mr. Adegbile's abilities and integrity shine through in each context.

Through my experiences with and observations of Mr. Adegbile, I know that he blends superb judgment and pragmatism with effective litigation skills, and that he has garnered a reputation as a leading civil rights attorney and advocate in his nearly twenty years of legal practice. At LDF Mr. Adegbile acquired substantial legal management experience as well as experience in United States Supreme Court litigation. He defended the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act's preclearance provisions before the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, and in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder*, two of the most important civil rights cases of his generation.

Mr. Adegbile's strong leadership, intelligence, dedication, and broad legal experience involving legal matters of government, private, and not-for-profit sectors prove that he has the skills to lead the Civil Rights Division effectively. Therefore, I hope that the Senate will promptly confirm Mr. Adegbile to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, an office of such importance to our country and in which I was privileged to have served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Drew S. Days, III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "D" and a prominent "H" at the end.

Drew S. Days, III