



Kenneth I. Chenault
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January 7, 2014

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

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

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

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.

I have watched Adegbile build an outstanding legal career in the private, not-for-profit and public sectors. At the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, he participated in a variety of cases and represented major corporations in patent, antitrust and contract matters including clients such as Revlon, the Continental Grain Company, and Helena Chemical Company. He then joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund where he oversaw cases in both the trial and appellate courts, managed legal staff and later served as Acting President and Director-Counsel during 2012-2013. Adegbile is uniquely hard working and dedicated, and he possesses the extensive litigation experience and strong leadership skills necessary to effectively lead the Civil Rights Division.

Adegbile demonstrates an ability to apply a measured approach to all of the cases and issues on which he works. For example, he was instrumental in the 2013 Supreme Court case *Fisher v. Texas*, addressing diversity and educational opportunity in the University of Texas system. In that case, Adegbile coordinated Fortune-100 and other leading American businesses, including American Express Co., in the filing of an amicus brief in support of the respondents. I am continually impressed by Adegbile's skills and professionalism – along with his steadfast commitment to upholding civil rights.

Debo Adegbile's leadership skills, coupled with his deep understanding of the application and enforcement of complex civil rights issues, make him an ideal candidate to lead the Civil Rights Division into the future. For these reasons, I urge the Senate to promptly confirm Debo P. Adegbile for the position of Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kenneth Chenault". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kenneth Chenault