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in order of seniority*

February 5, 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 Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) is pleased that President Barack Obama has nominated Debo P. Adegbile to lead the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (the Division). As one of the preeminent civil rights litigators of his generation, Mr. Adegbile offers precisely the type of experience, professionalism, and leadership skills necessary to run the Division.

Created in 1957 by the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Division has a long and distinguished history of combating discrimination. The landmark civil rights laws of the 1960s greatly expanded civil rights protections, as well as the jurisdiction of the Division. The Division upholds and defends the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans by enforcing the statutes that protect against discrimination and other civil rights violations on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status or disability. They also protect the civil rights of service members and individuals housed in public institutions.

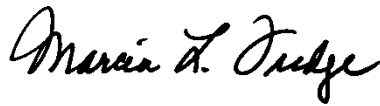
Over the decades, the Division has been instrumental in many of our nation's battles to advance civil rights,; from the desegregation of our nation's schools to the prosecution of hate crimes, from ensuring girls and women have equal opportunities in schools and the workplace to guaranteeing that individuals with disabilities can access civic services to which we all have a right. In addition to combating traditional civil rights violations, the Division also addresses new, emerging challenges to equal justice and equal rights.



The son of immigrants who worked his way from poverty to the top of the legal profession, Adebile is a tireless voice for equality, fairness, and opportunity for all Americans. For more than a decade, Mr. Adebile served as a leading attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. where he worked on a myriad civil rights cases and twice defended the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act in oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court.

We believe that Mr. Adebile's breadth of experience with civil rights litigation, as well as his intellect, integrity, and commitment to civil rights, make him highly qualified to be the next Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. The CBC strongly supports President Obama's nomination of Debo P. Adebile and encourages our colleagues in the Senate to confirm him for this position without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia L. Fudge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Marcia L. Fudge
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

