



May 20, 2013

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: NAACP STRONG SUPPORT FOR TONY WEST'S NOMINATION AS ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support the nomination of Tony West to serve as Associate Attorney General of the United States and work towards his swift confirmation. As Acting Associate Attorney General, Tony West has proven himself to be knowledgeable, capable, and extremely effective as he has served the office of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and our nation with integrity and skill.

As you know, during Mr. West's tenure with the U.S. Department of Justice, first as Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division and then as Acting Associate Attorney General he has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing opportunity for all Americans. Under his leadership, the Department of Justice has achieved unprecedented success in upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Specifically, Mr. West played an integral role in pursuing the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and helped the Department strengthen its response to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Moreover, under Mr. West's leadership as Acting Associate Attorney General, the Department has made great strides and stepped up enforcement in the areas of disability and voting rights, education, fair lending, human trafficking, and constitutional policing.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important NAACP position. There is no doubt that Tony West is an extremely qualified candidate, who will serve with distinction and whose service will do much to protect the civil and human rights of all Americans. I again urge you to support Mr. West's swift confirmation. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

Hilary O. Shelton  
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau &  
Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy

cc: Members, Senate Committee on the Judiciary