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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

**Re: Nomination of Debo P. Adegbile**

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, and in response to the letter from Chuck Canterbury of the National Fraternal Order of Police dated January 6, 2014.

We graduated from the New York University School of Law with Mr. Adegbile in 1994, and were law school roommates with him from approximately 1992-1994. During law school, we quickly developed a mutual admiration and friendship for one another. Born and raised in New York City and as children of immigrant parents, we all shared mutual experiences and aspirations. We have remained in close personal contact with Mr. Adegbile since our graduation from law school and have been friends with him for over 20 years. Debo attended and spoke at both of our weddings. We have celebrated the birth of our respective children, attended the funeral services of his mother and our father, and celebrated professional accomplishments with one another. We cannot think of a finer person than Mr. Adegbile to fulfill the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. He is an attorney of the highest character, and a man with the utmost integrity. As his career demonstrates, he is skilled litigator and a tireless advocate. Mr. Adegbile has a deep respect for the rule of law, has always been

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respectful of multiple points of view (even those different from his own), and is above all else, fair.

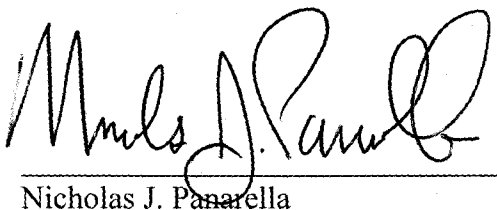
We also are the sons of Nicholas J. Panarella, Sr., a retired first-grade detective from the New York City Police Department, whom Debo knew very well prior to our father's death in 2008. Indeed, Debo attended our father's burial services, and his friendship and words of support were a source of strength during that very difficult time.

Throughout our relationship with Mr. Adegbile he has never expressed any animosity whatsoever towards the law enforcement community. To the contrary, he has always expressed strong admiration for police officers, for our father's career as a detective, and of the vital role that the many men and women who carry the shield play in protecting our communities. We remember with fondness the many discussions between our father, Debo and us about important issues facing police officers and the law enforcement community. In all of these discussions, Mr. Adegbile demonstrated a deep respect and appreciation for police officers and the challenges that they face every day.

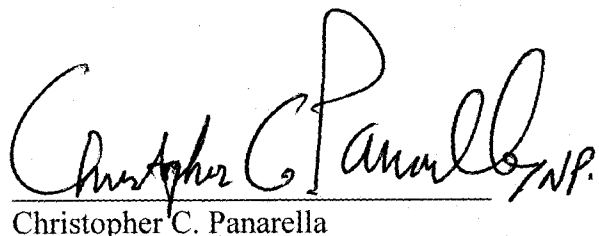
Thus, we were very disappointed to read Mr. Canterbury's letter and in particular his unfounded accusation that Mr. Adegbile lacks "ethics" and applies a "race-baiting" approach to our legal system. Those statements are patently untrue, and unfairly attempt to sully Mr. Adegbile's fine reputation. Based on our 20 year relationship with him, we know Mr. Adegbile to have the highest ethical compass, and a deep respect for the rule of law. We are confident that he will bring professionalism and honor to the Department of Justice.

We hope that our views will assist the Senate Judiciary Committee in supporting Mr. Adegbile's nomination to become Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas J. Panarella



Christopher C. Panarella