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January 8, 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,

As the President and Director of the Vera Institute of Justice, 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. The Vera Institute, a 52 year old non-profit that works with federal, state and local law enforcement and public safety agencies to improve administration of justice, views the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice as paramount to achieving that goal.

I first met Debo years ago when he and I began our careers together at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. As a colleague, he exemplified the type of professionalism that is integral to any successful organization. He was open and honest, fair-minded, and most importantly, committed to careful and thorough execution of the tasks at hand. Paul Weiss provided us both the opportunity to gain first class experience in complex civil and commercial litigation. Debo has always exhibited a willingness to work hard and has strived to achieve the best possible outcome in all cases. Because of these qualities, he not only gained widespread respect by principals both in- and outside of the firm but was seen as a mentor by many lawyers junior to him.

After our time at Paul Weiss, Debo continued to build on his litigation experience at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). While there, he served for a decade in various leadership positions oversaw cases in both the trial and appellate courts, and during 2012-2013 he served as its Acting President and Director-Counsel. Debo is an experienced and accomplished litigator and a proven leader on a broad array of civil rights issues, and it is my belief that he is a stellar candidate to serve as AAG of the Civil Rights Division. I can say this with the confidence of Vera having observed and worked with many of his predecessors through Democratic and Republican administrations.

It was an honor to have worked with Debo, and I am positive that his extensive experience, both at Paul Weiss and beyond, makes him overwhelmingly qualified to serve as leader of the Civil Rights Division. He has always shown a willingness to represent any and all of his clients with zeal and a passion that matches his intellectual abilities. He has the temperament to manage the office, staff and its docket fairly and responsibly. For all of the above 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Turner'.

Nicholas Turner