

January 3, 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 am a retired Senior Managing Director of the Blackstone Group LP., and the President of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees. I write to support the nomination of my fellow Connecticut College Trustee, Debo P. Adegbile, as the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. As someone with first-hand knowledge of his deep commitment to service, compelling leadership voice, and his personal leadership qualities that inspire our students, faculty and colleagues, I offer my endorsement without reservation.

I have known Mr. Adegbile since he joined the Connecticut College Board in 2011. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to work with Debo on a range of Board business.

My high regard for Debo, a regard that is widely shared by the different constituencies at the college, and his ability to communicate with clarity the importance of higher education and power of his own experience at Connecticut College, led me to recruit him to serve alongside me on the Presidential Search Committee that I Chaired last summer. As a measure of his dedication, he agreed to serve on this crucial college committee even as he prepared for his most recent Supreme Court argument. Debo was a valuable contributor to the search committee, and his leadership voice, sound judgment, focus on the path to consensus, and knowledge of the trends, challenges and opportunities that colleges face enriched our successful search process. In light of his demonstrated abilities as a Board member, I asked Debo to Chair the Faculty-Trustee Liaison committee during a pivotal period of the college's curriculum reform, and he also serves on the Board's Executive Committee.

Finally, as a former Wall Street executive and current college Board of Trustees Chair who has recruited, hired, trained and assessed scores of exceptionally bright colleagues over many years, I must note that Debo's effectiveness derives not simply from his keen intellect and analytical abilities, but also from his respect for peers, personal integrity, and engaging personality. Although I am not a lawyer nor a person who has served in government, I am

certain that Debo's track record of accomplishment, commitment to civil rights, and his strong, natural leadership characteristics would serve him and the Nation very well in his role as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela D. Zilly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pamela D. Zilly