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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 the Co-Chair of the Litigation Department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. From 2000-2011, I served on the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund ("LDF"), including a five-year period as Co-Chair of the LDF board. I write to express my strong support for the nomination of Debo P. Adegible to become the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

I have known Debo for over 14 years. He began his legal career as an associate at Paul, Weiss, and he worked under my supervision on many matters. While at Paul, Weiss, Debo represented various corporate clients, including Revlon, the Continental Grain Company, and Helena Chemical Company, in a variety of cases

involving real estate developer interests, complex international transactions, and antitrust and patent claims. He also represented clients in the governmental and not-for-profit sectors, including various *pro bono* projects involving civil rights issues. Debo went on to join the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where he litigated and supervised cases in both the trial and appellate courts, directed legal staff, and later undertook the role of Acting President and Director-Counsel during 2012-2013.

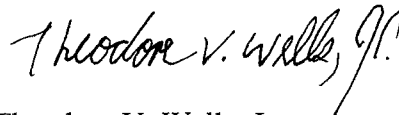
Debo is highly intelligent and an excellent writer. He also has excellent judgment, outstanding management skills, and an impeccable work ethic. His legal skills are stellar, and he is best described as a “lawyer’s lawyer.”

Debo takes a measured, pragmatic approach to every case and has an unwavering respect for the rule of law. Paul Clement, Solicitor General under President George W. Bush, has declared, “I have always found him [Debo] to be a formidable advocate of the highest intellect, skills and integrity.” I too am continually impressed by Debo’s legal and leadership skills, intelligence, and dedication. He has twice defended the Voting Rights Act—an Act that President Ronald Reagan once called “the crown jewel of American liberties”—before the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Shelby County v. Holder* and in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder*. He has earned my respect and admiration.

A son of immigrants from Ireland and Nigeria, Debo worked his way up from humble beginnings—and even a period of homelessness—to a prominent legal career defending American democracy. Debo understands the complexities of civil rights litigation. He also has the legal and leadership skills, judgment, and integrity required to lead the Civil Rights Division, an agency tasked with upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

For these reasons, I support the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile for the position of Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and I urge the Senate to confirm him promptly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Theodore V. Wells, Jr." in a cursive script.

Theodore V. Wells, Jr.