

**Testimony by former Deputy Attorney General Larry  
Thompson at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the  
Nomination of William P. Barr to be Attorney General of  
the United States  
January 16, 2019**

Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Members of  
the Committee:

It is my great honor to appear before you this morning in support of Bill Barr's nomination to serve our country once again as Attorney General of the United States. I have known Bill since 1992. I can tell you that Bill Barr has deep, deep respect for, and fidelity to, the Department of Justice. He served with great distinction as Attorney General and is highly respected and admired, on a bipartisan basis, by the career prosecutors and investigators he oversaw in the Department. Importantly, Bill knows how to develop much needed partnerships with state and local law enforcement. He was very successful at this during his tenure as Attorney General and created strong and effective joint task forces across the country to combat white collar and violent crime.

I will be brief this morning but let me share with you how Bill Barr's leadership of one program when he was Attorney General so impressed me. Bill passionately led the anti-crime, community-based program called Weed & Seed started by President George H.W. Bush. Under the program, law enforcement, working with the community would "weed out" violent offenders and groups. At the same time, a broad range of federal, state, local and private community revitalization programs would plant in communities the "seeds" of long-term stability and growth. In other words, law enforcement and community groups, working together, would attempt to reclaim crime ridden neighborhoods.

Bill Barr believes that every citizen – no matter where he or she lives – deserves the full protection of the law.

Bill also understands that federal law enforcement cannot do the job alone. In 1992 Bill visited my home town of Atlanta, Georgia and spoke with members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He said then that cleaning up crime infested neighborhoods cannot be a "Washington, bureaucratic project. It must be a project where the solutions are found in the community itself." He acknowledged to the Reverend Joseph

Lowery that in the past decade the federal government's anti-crime efforts have relied too heavily on prison construction and not enough on crime prevention.

As a former General Counsel of a large public company myself, I also appreciate and admire Bill's approach to his work in the private sector. Bill was very supportive of the lawyers who worked with him. He created opportunities for everyone he oversaw to develop and grow in their careers, including many female lawyers and lawyers of color. He was supportive of diversity in the legal profession.

In 2002, the company Bill served as General Counsel received the Northeast Region Employer of Choice award from the Minority Corporate Counsel Association for successfully creating a more inclusive work environment. The award cited the exceptional leadership, innovative initiatives, and dedicated people in Bill's Law Department.

Finally, I think the most important point I can share with this committee is that Bill Barr is a person of very high integrity. He led the Department of Justice as Attorney General with an unbending respect for the rule of law. As General Counsel of a large public company, he emphasized the importance of

complying with all laws, rules and regulations and he stood up for his client, a world class corporate compliance program.

Bill Barr's integrity is rock solid. He will not – I repeat – will not simply go along to get along. Last January he resigned from his position as a director of a public company board. The news reports at the time cited disagreements with management over business and governance plans.

As a citizen, I thank Bill Barr for his willingness to return to public service. He is needed, and I look forward to his tenure again in service to our country as Attorney General.

Thank you.