

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
**Victims of Crime**

May 21, 2013

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Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for victims of all types of crime. On behalf of the countless victims of crime and those professionals who advocate for victim's rights, we write to express our support of the nomination of Tony West to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

In his distinguished career, Mr West has shown a true commitment to protecting some of the most vulnerable and underserved groups in our community, including young people, the elderly and member of Tribal nations who have been victims of crime. As Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California, Mr. West made it a priority to enlist the assistance of children who were victim-witnesses in his efforts to prosecute several sexual exploitation cases.

More recently, as Acting Associate Attorney General, Mr. West worked to expand the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, prioritizing a comprehensive effort to prevent violence in ten cities across the country. This Forum built local capacity to more effectively address youth violence. In his current role as the Attorney General's representative to the Elder Justice Coordinating Council, Mr. West is strengthening federal interagency collaboration to combat elder abuse through awareness, prevention, and prosecution.

Under Acting Associate Attorney General West's leadership, the Department of Justice has instituted programmatic reforms to strengthen its response to victims of domestic

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mai Fernandez

violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The Department recently released the framework for "Vision 21" which is a comprehensive and transformative plan to improve our nation's response to victims of crime. During the last year, the Department created the Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative, which supports the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, prosecutors and health professionals to reduce domestic violence. Mr. West also helped to secure passage of tribal provisions of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which allows Tribal nations, for the first time in decades, to prosecute non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence in Indian Country.

Mr. West's strong leadership, extensive legal experience, and unwavering commitment to developing programs and practice to meet the comprehensive needs of victims and survivors make him an ideal candidate for Associate Attorney General. Therefore, we urge the Senate to promptly confirm Mr. West to serve as the Associate Attorney General for the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mai Fernandez".

Mai Fernandez  
Executive Director  
National Center for Victims of Crime  
Washington DC