

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Senate Dirksen
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
151 Senate Dirksen
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

We write as members of an ad hoc group of current and former African American AmLaw partners and Fortune 500 general counsel to urge you to vote in favor of Loretta Lynch's nomination to become the Attorney General of the United States.

We begin our analysis of U.S. Attorney Lynch's professional pedigree with a brief recitation of her educational background and dedication to public service. Ms. Lynch graduated from Harvard College with an A.B. *cum laude* in English and American Literature (1981). Thereafter, she obtained her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She spent eleven years (03/1990 – 05/2001) serving as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) and another 6 years across two stints as the EDNY United States Attorney. As illustrated by the sheer number of agencies and departments that have honored her (e.g. U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Police Department of Internal Affairs Division, and New York State Inspector General, etc.), Ms. Lynch's public service proves exemplary. Moreover, Ms. Lynch maintains a strong relationship with law enforcement officials, including the New York City Police Department, despite having successfully prosecuted one of the most notorious incidents of police brutality of her generation. *See United States v. Volpe, et al.*, 98 CR 196 (EHN).

Beyond her service as the EDNY U.S. Attorney, Ms. Lynch has significant leadership experience within the Department of Justice. She served as both the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee where she worked closely with General Holder and the Deputy Attorney General to develop Department policy after consultation with her U.S. Attorney colleagues. In that capacity she was one of the few deans of the U.S. Attorney community, mentoring many of her colleagues, given her excellent temperament and prior experience during the Clinton administration. She is, in essence, a lawyer's lawyer.

Ms. Lynch's experience also extends to the private sector. While at Hogan & Hartson (2002 – 2010), she primarily counseled clients in white collar criminal defense. That work included counseling clients on the increasingly important Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. However, she also found time during this period (07/2005 – 07/2007) to serve as counsel to the prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda—a pro bono service by appointment. In addition, she had considerable civil litigation experience taking and defending depositions and engaging in motions practice while at Cahill Gordon & Reindel (09/1984 – 02/1990). This private sector experience in both the criminal and civil practice of law has served her well in her two stints as the EDNY U.S. Attorney. It also underscores her capacity to supervise the criminal, civil, and other components of the vast Department of Justice.

In light of her significant public and private sector experience and exceptional educational pedigree, we are confident that Ms. Lynch will be an able and independent Attorney General. For all of the foregoing reasons, we urge you and the other Committee members to advance Ms. Lynch's nomination to the full Senate so that she may be promptly confirmed.

Sincerely,

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