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January 29, 2015

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The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

On behalf of the more than 65,000 members who comprise the National Bar Association, the nation's oldest and largest association of predominantly African-American lawyers, judges, educators, and law students, I write to express our unequivocal support of the nomination of U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch for the position of Attorney General of the United States.

Ms. Lynch's nomination is both timely and historic, in light of it coming during the year that this Nation celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If confirmed, Ms. Lynch would make history as the first African-American woman to serve as the United States Attorney General. However, these poetic reasons are not the cause for the National Bar Association's endorsement. Rather, it is her record of excellence and unwavering commitment to impartiality and the truth that bolster our support of her nomination.

Ms. Lynch is a passionate and highly skilled litigation attorney. Throughout her career, she has advocated for justice in the legal system and has earned the respect of her colleagues in the legal community, bipartisan political leaders, judges, elected officials, community leaders, and the community at-large. This overwhelming support is well founded as it is based upon her tenacity, expertise, and integrity as well as her educational, professional, and personal qualifications.

Her educational pedigree is beyond reproach as she earned a Bachelor's Degree from Harvard College and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. More importantly, her legal background is well balanced as she has extensive experience in private practice as well as in the public sector, having spent 11 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA). Her latter experience includes two years as the Chief of the Long Island Office before being appointed the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of New York by President Bill Clinton. In 2010, Ms. Lynch was re-appointed to the position of the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District by President Barack Obama. She has served as a professional prosecutor of the highest standard for the majority of her legal career.

# NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy -2-

January 29, 2015

Her life experience—growing up in North Carolina as the daughter of a librarian and a Baptist Minister and granddaughter of a Baptist Minister—provides a firm foundation for understanding the complex issues of the criminal justice system. As a career prosecutor, she has had the benefit of personally witnessing the imbalance of the application of the law to certain individuals over others. We believe that these experiences will allow her to empathize not only with the high class and middle class populations, but with the underserved and underprivileged as well.

Ms. Lynch has also demonstrated the ability to be non-partisan in her execution of her craft. Examples are found in the fact that Ms. Lynch's office indicted Republican Congressman Michael Grimm and prosecuted Democratic politicians Pedro Espada Jr. and William Boyland, Jr. Ms. Lynch has also demonstrated that she has no tolerance for corporate fraud and corporate law violations. Ms. Lynch investigated Citigroup over mortgage securities sold by the bank, resulting in a \$7 billion settlement; and was involved in the \$1.2 billion settlement with HSBC over violations of the Bank Secrecy Act. She continued to show her commitment to upholding the law and ensuring that the civil rights of the people of our nation are not violated. She has not shied away from making her position known, even in some of the most controversial and high profile police brutality cases, such as those involving Abner Louima and more recently Eric Garner.

Given the summary of her qualifications and the urgent and divisive nature of current challenges facing our nation like equal protection and police brutality, I urge you and your colleagues in the Senate to act swiftly to confirm Ms. Lynch as the 83<sup>rd</sup> Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,



Pamela Meanes  
72<sup>nd</sup> President, National Bar Association

cc: Ted Lehman  
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