



**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES**

HUBERT T. BELL, JR. OFFICE COMPLEX
4609 PINECREST OFFICE PARK DR. • SUITE F
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312-1442
(703) 658-1529 • FAX: (703) 658-9479
Website: <http://www.noblenational.org>

January 24, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter on behalf of the 2,500 members of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) in unwavering support of the confirmation of Mr. Debo Patrick Adebile to serve as the Assistant Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The mission of NOBLE is to ensure equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action.

We believe that Mr. Adebile's qualifications are in concert with the mission of the Civil Rights Division which is to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans and enforce federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status and national origin.

We believe that Mr. Adebile's record of achievement is impressive, and he is well qualified for the position. Additionally, he has demonstrated a respect for the fundamental rights of all people under our constitution to have legal representation no matter how heinous the offense. We are confident in his ability to bring a balanced and ethical perspective into his role as head of the Civil Rights Division.

The attacks on Mr. Adebile's character for upholding one's constitutional rights are troubling. To take away one's right to a proper defense because of the act committed, is against the constitutional oath that

we as law enforcement officials have sworn to protect and defend. His distinguished record of achievement has centered on racial justice, constitutional rights and equal opportunity; and he should be judged on his entire body of work and not one chapter.

We empathize with the surviving families and those touched by the despicable crimes that were committed; and we understand how painful it is for them to see a conviction sustained at trial and a death sentence imposed only to be lost on appeal because of an error. But these are the laws that we have taken an oath to uphold both popular and unpopular. Civil Rights cases are some of the most controversial and complex cases that our courts face. They are based on interpretations of the US Constitution and affect the rights afforded to all of our citizens and some non-citizens. We expect the leadership of the Civil Rights Division to possess the courage to move forward on those cases that warrant it, and, after careful and thoughtful consideration have the ability to reject those cases that don't meet the legal threshold.

We believe that Mr. Debo Adebile possesses the unique qualifications needed to lead the Civil Rights Division. He is balanced and ethical, and has demonstrated a duty to honor our Constitution through his bravery to ensure the proper representation of even an individual who has committed the most reprehensible of offenses. Our Constitution is what makes America great and has served as a model for other nations. Therefore, it is our recommendation that Mr. Debo Adebile be quickly confirmed as the Assistant Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Respectfully,

John I. Dixon, III

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National President

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