

# LDF Applauds Testimony of Debo Adebile to Senate Judiciary Committee

*Today, Debo Adebile, nominated to become the next Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights division, presented testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The following is a statement from [Sherrilyn Ifill](#), President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.*

"With poise, humor and straightforward answers, Debo Adebile, deftly managed his presentation to the Senate Judiciary Committee during his confirmation hearing to become the next Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights division.

Leaders from major civil rights organizations and unions attended the hearing in a powerful show of support for Adebile's nomination. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) described Debo Adebile's journey from instances of homelessness as a child to today's confirmation hearing as "a remarkable example of the American dream." Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) praised "LDF and other civil rights organizations" that "serve a critical role in our justice system."

During the hearing, Adebile spoke about his work at LDF defending the civil rights of every American. "We can and must do more to protect civil rights. I've seen the impact that enforcing civil rights can have on real peoples' lives," Adebile said during his testimony. "If confirmed as Assistant Attorney General, the people I will be serving are the people of the United States of America," Adebile added.

As Senators mangled the pronunciation of his name, Adebile joked with good nature, assigning "partial credit" to those Senators who made the effort to pronounce his last name correctly. Adebile is the son of a Nigerian father and an Irish mother. He was raised in New York City.

With his family and friends (including some from grade school) arrayed behind him, Adebile described his commitment to civil rights, reminding the Committee, "you cannot have too much justice."

Adebile is eminently qualified to be the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served as Litigation Director and Acting Director-Counsel at LDF. He defended and argued twice in the Supreme Court in defense of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. For years, Debo Adebile has worked tirelessly to defend the American promise of equality for all of its citizens.

This is the fourth time that a former LDF lawyer has been nominated to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. It is expected that a vote and confirmation for Mr. Adebile will take place in the coming weeks."