

NAACP Legal Defense Fund Alumnus Nominated to Become Government's Top Civil Rights Lawyer

"I am very pleased that President Obama has nominated Debo Adebile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Our country needs someone like Debo with significant experience in voting rights to protect the deeply held American value that each person has the right to a voice in our democracy. Debo has worked tirelessly to ensure that our nation lives up to its promise of equality for all Americans," said [Sherrilyn Ifill](#), President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), the leading civil rights law firm in America and a separate entity from the NAACP.

"He is highly respected as one of the Nation's leading civil rights attorneys," continued Ifill. "Debo has precisely the type of broad civil rights experience that is required at this pivotal moment in our country."

Mr. Adebile held various positions at LDF during a ten-year period (2003-2013), including Acting President and Director-Counsel, Director of Litigation and Special Counsel. Mr. Adebile contributed to LDF's work on education, economic justice and criminal justice, and his legal work on voting rights brought him to the center of two of the most important recent civil rights cases in a generation.

While at LDF, Mr. Adebile twice defended the Voting Rights Act before the Supreme Court ([Shelby County v. Holder](#), [Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder](#)). He also represented evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in the first post-Katrina federal voting rights lawsuit.

"I deeply admire and respect Debo's considerable legal acumen, his tireless work ethic, and his commitment to practicing law at the highest levels with professionalism and integrity. Debo possesses an unwavering commitment to advancing equality for all Americans," said [Ryan P. Haygood](#), Director of LDF's Political Participation Group, who worked with Mr. Adebile for nearly a decade.

"Debo is an example of what can be possible for every child in America when we open the doors of opportunity. As a child, Debo and his single mother fought grinding poverty and homelessness in New York City. Debo later financed his college and law school education with scholarships, employment and loans, and ultimately twice argued in the United States Supreme Court. These experiences have influenced his commitment to protect the rights of the most vulnerable among us, and our nation will benefit from his service," continued Haygood.