



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 15, 2018

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LDF Statement on William Barr Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing

Ahead of Attorney General nominee William Barr's confirmation hearings this week, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. ([LDF](#)) released an [overview](#) of Mr. Barr's record on civil rights throughout his career, including his time in the DOJ during the George H.W. Bush Administration.

[Sherrilyn Ifill](#), LDF's President and Director-Counsel issued the following statement:

"Our Justice Department must be led by an Attorney General that respects the independence of the special counsel, that will uphold the rule of law and enforce our nation's civil rights laws. Our review of William Barr's record demonstrates that he is hostile to sensible criminal justice reform and civil rights for marginalized communities.

"Mr. Barr's Bush Administration criminal justice policies led to a surge in incarceration, and continue to drive racial inequality and poverty, creating barriers to opportunity and devastating communities of color.

"He also holds hostile views towards the LGBTQ community, as well as troubling ideas about the government's role in enforcing religious-based concepts that are unconstitutional and threaten civil rights.

"We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to engage in a full and thorough vetting to properly satisfy its duty to 'advise and consent.' The next Attorney General must repair and restore integrity and fairness to the Justice Department and ensure that all persons are treated equally under the law."

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Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation's first civil and human rights law organization and has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF's Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF. Follow LDF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).