

National Leadership Council for Crime Victim Justice
Post Office Box 15551
Washington, DC 20003

November 25, 2008

Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect, United States of America
c/o David Ogden, Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

It is truly an honor for the National Leadership Council for Crime Victim Justice to strongly support your nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. to be the Attorney General of the United States.

The Council has developed a list of crime victim policy recommendations for the nation that we could make available to you upon request. Our multi-partisan members and affiliates represent decades of experience from almost all of the states. A list of those proposing the recommendations is also available.

For over 20 years, Mr. Holder has been a local and national leader in promoting the rights and needs of crime victims and survivors. As a Superior Court judge in the District of Columbia, he came to understand first-hand the traumatic impact of crime on victims through the domestic violence and child abuse cases he heard.

As the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, he made victims' rights and needs an important priority in his agency. He greatly expanded his victim/witness unit, which became a model for the Nation, creating designated victim advocate positions for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and for the surviving family members of homicide victims. Through his leadership, the DC Children's Advocacy Center was created, and remains today a beacon of hope for child victims and their families. His commitment to child victims was also evidenced by his creation of a "Kids Court" to promote child-friendly practices in DC courts.

As the U.S. Department of Justice Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder continued his commitment to victims' issues simply by promoting the important work of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within the Office of Justice Programs. OVC's landmark "Children Exposed to Violence" initiative, which produced a wide range of resources that addressed the needs of children who witness violence in their homes, neighborhoods and schools, would *not* have happened without his leadership and support.

Crime victims, survivors and those who serve them know that they will have a strong advocate and true visionary for crime victim issues if Eric Holder is confirmed as the Attorney General for the United States. He truly understands the many needs of crime victims, and the hurdles that they face in their recovery.

As a group of long-time victim advocates, we are grateful to you for nominating Eric Holder to be the U.S. Attorney General, and strongly support this nomination.

If you have any questions about this letter of support, please contact me at (949) 492-9779 or at 3507 Calle Verano, San Clemente, CA 92673...

Sincerely,

SHARON J. ENGLISH
Council Coordinator and Spokesperson