

**ROBERT L. MATTHEWS**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL**  
**JUSTICE**

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12/29/2008

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

As President of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) I am writing to express our Organization's strong support for the Senate Confirmation of Eric Holder as Attorney General of the United States.

NABCJ was established in 1974 and among its founders was the first African American Director of State Corrections, Dr. Bennett Cooper, and since its inception our Organization has comprised of Criminal Justice Professionals that include Corrections Directors, Administrators, Line Staff, Peace Officers, Judges, Lawyers, Community Leaders, Probation and Parole Officials, Students and Educators.

We are a multi-ethnic and non-partisan organization that focuses on Criminal Justice issues in order to find solutions to problems that impact the African American and other Communities. We believe that Eric Holder has demonstrated his concern for equal justice for all and has exemplified a high level of integrity and fairness throughout his career in Public Service.

I served over 28 years in the Department of Justice and had the opportunity to experience first hand the positive impact of Mr. Holder's outstanding leadership at the Department when he was Deputy Attorney General. When I served as Regional Director and Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons our agency and all others received the attention, support and resources to effectively perform our mission and protect our citizens.

Consequently, The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice stand with many other Criminal Justice Professionals and Organizations in our belief that President -Elect Obama could not have made a

better choice in nominating Eric Holder as the next Attorney General of the United States and pledge our support.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Matthews  
President  
The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice