



National District Attorneys Association
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December 10, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Recommendation of Eric H. Holder, Jr. to be Attorney General

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association, the oldest and largest national association of State and local prosecutors in the nation, I wish to convey our support for Eric H. Holder, Jr. to become the next Attorney General of the United States.

State and local prosecutors handle 95% of the criminal prosecutions nationally; yet too often we feel that our perspective is not heard in Washington. Mr. Holder has already recognized that and invited our association and others representing state, local and tribal segments of the criminal justice system to meet with members of the transition team in Washington. The attitude at the meeting was one of enthusiasm for the chance to be heard and we were assured that Mr. Holder will continue to ask for our input.

The members of NDAA see a special relationship with Mr. Holder because as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia he was a street crime prosecutor faced with our challenges and our responsibilities to a community. Many of us also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Holder when he served with Attorney General Reno.

Although NDAA is comprised of elected officials, we are not divided by political affiliation because we believe that decisions related to the protection of our citizens from crime and improvement of the justice system should be removed from party considerations. Our 7,000 members urge the Judiciary Committee to ratify Eric Holder, Jr. as our next Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph I. Cassilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Joseph I. Cassilly
President
National District Attorneys Association

To Be the Voice of America's Prosecutors and to Support Their Efforts to Protect the Rights and Safety of the People

12/10/2008 1:16PM