



ADVANCING EQUALITY

December 15, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4502

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3802

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

I am writing on behalf of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) to endorse Eric Holder for the position of United States Attorney General. AAJC is a national organization dedicated to defending and advancing the civil and human rights of Asian Americans.

Mr. Holder has excellent qualifications for this job. He has served the public for over 25 years, including as Deputy Attorney General, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Associate Judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He has also served as a line attorney in the Department of Justice. However, more important than serving in these positions is how he conducted himself when in those roles. He has engaged in all his responsibilities with utmost professionalism and integrity.

As a civil rights organization, AAJC is particularly interested in his record on those issues, especially as they affect the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. On that score, Mr. Holder is once again superb. For example, as U.S. Attorney, Mr. Holder emphasized the need to prosecute hate crimes. Additionally, we applaud Mr. Holder's efforts to outreach to community organizations while U.S. Attorney, including to the Asian American community.

Finally, AAJC urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to move expeditiously on Mr. Holder's nomination. The new Attorney General has a tremendous challenge ahead of him on civil rights enforcement and many other vital issues facing the Department of Justice. The country needs him to begin work as soon after January 20th as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if AAJC can provide the Senate Judiciary Committee with additional information that is helpful to its process.

Very truly yours,

Karen K. Narasaki
President and Executive Director

cc: President-elect Barack Obama
Eric Holder, Attorney General Designee