



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**  
4805 MT. HOPE DRIVE • BALTIMORE, MD 21215-3297 • (410) 580-5777

**BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS**  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

**JULIAN BOND**  
*Chairman, Board of Directors*

December 19, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Minority Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

*via fax*

**RE: NAACP SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF ERIC HOLDER  
TO BE UNITED STATES' ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter;

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, we strongly urge you to support the historic nomination of Eric Holder to be the next Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Holder is perhaps the most qualified of nominees for Attorney General in memory and there is no doubt in our minds that he will lead the U.S. Department of Justice, and the United States, with an integrity and strength that is sorely needed at this time.

Mr. Holder's is perhaps uniquely qualified for this position. Not only did he serve the nation and the Department of Justice with unqualified success as Deputy Director under Attorney General Janet Reno, but he also led a smooth and successful transition team between the Clinton and Bush administrations. Furthermore, throughout his career not only as Deputy Director of the Department of Justice and as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, as Associate Judge for the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and as a trial attorney in the Public Integrity section of the Department of Justice Mr. Holder has demonstrated a willingness to use his independent judgment along with his even-handed nature to advance the principles of justice and the Constitution that is admirable.

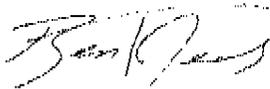
Our nation, and especially our racial and ethnic minority citizens, is clearly facing a crisis in confidence that the US Department of Justice is not a true defender of our rights. Eric Holder is the right person at this time to rebuild not only the Department, but also our country's reputation as a defender of the rights of all



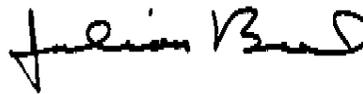
Americans to pursue the Constitutional promises of life, liberty and happiness. Thus, we urge you again, in the strongest terms possible, to swiftly and resoundingly confirm Eric Holder to be the next Attorney General of these United States.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Hilary Shelton, the NAACP Vice President for Advocacy and the Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,



**Benjamin T. Jealous**  
President & CEO



**Julian Bond, Chairman**  
NAACP National Board of Directors