



National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys

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December 22, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Specter:

I write on behalf of the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys to endorse the nomination of Eric Holder, Jr. to become Attorney General of the United States.

Our association, which represents the interests of the 5,300 career Assistant United States Attorneys employed by the Department of Justice, maintains the highest respect for Mr. Holder, his qualifications and record of accomplishment.

Mr. Holder's experience as a senior-level DOJ official, federal prosecutor and municipal judge make him an exceptionally well-qualified candidate to serve as our nation's top law enforcement official. Mr. Holder possesses a deep understanding of the Department of Justice, its operations and its culture, having served as Deputy Attorney General from 1997-2001 and previously as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1993-97. During his tenure at the Department of Justice, Mr. Holder earned the wide respect of the Department's employees, including Assistant United States Attorneys and members of the law enforcement community. He became known as a strong and impartial proponent of the Department's independence and integrity. Mr. Holder's attributes are particularly noteworthy, given the concerns regarding the dismissal of some United States Attorneys over the last several years.

Mr. Holder possesses the leadership skills, legal experience, and integrity to serve with distinction as Attorney General. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to act promptly in reviewing and reporting out his nomination. Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

Richard Delonis
National President

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