



February 25, 2015

SWIFTLY CONFIRM LORETTA LYNCH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the 42 undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to vote to confirm Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States. As a strong, fair and independent prosecutor who has served two presidential administrations with distinction, we are confident Ms. Lynch would bring a steady hand to guide the Department of Justice (the Department or DOJ), an agency that is vitally important to the civil and human rights community. Importantly, Ms. Lynch would make history as the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General.

We believe that Ms. Lynch is an exceptional candidate for this position. The Attorney General must safeguard the rule of law, protect the public, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans. Ms. Lynch's commitment to public service is unwavering, as is her dedication to our justice system. Ms. Lynch is a strong, independent prosecutor who has twice headed one of the most important U.S. Attorney's Offices in the country and who has decades of experience as a lawyer and leader. She knows the Department, has a distinguished record of success prosecuting major cases, and is an experienced manager.

Ms. Lynch has served in both the public and private sectors with distinction. She was a partner for eight years at a prestigious international law firm, and is currently the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York (EDNY). In addition to leading the EDNY, Ms. Lynch is Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and sits on the Department of Justice's Diversity Council. Her public service work outside the Department has included serving as Counsel to the Prosecutor for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and as a member of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity.

Ms. Lynch recognizes that a fair and equal justice system is essential to who we are as a nation and has fought tirelessly to protect the civil and human rights of all persons under the law. She has made clear time and again that the United States must ensure equal opportunity for all and protect its people from violence committed on account of a victim's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. For example, Ms. Lynch and the EDNY have led the fight against human trafficking, breaking up sex trafficking rings, bringing to justice numerous sex traffickers, and reuniting families torn apart by the sex trade.

In 2012, the EDNY prosecuted racially and religiously motivated fire-bombings of a mosque, a business, and a Hindu temple in Queens. As Ms. Lynch stated when announcing the charges, "[h]ate crimes offend the very principles upon which this country was founded, and those who engage in such conduct will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This defendant allegedly sought to fan the flames of ethnic and religious tension. Those

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flames will always be extinguished by the rule of law.” She also worked with DOJ’s Civil Rights Division to secure an agreement with the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) in the wake of a spate of violent hate crimes against Latinos on Long Island when the SCPD failed to investigate such complaints. At the time, Ms. Lynch stated, “All residents of Suffolk County deserve full and unbiased police protection, regardless of national origin, race, or citizenship status. When people feel they cannot turn to the police for protection, they have lost one of our most basic rights – the right to feel safe in one’s community.”

Ms. Lynch prosecuted one of the most notorious cases of police brutality in New York City history, the case of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima. While Ms. Lynch has held accountable police who have broken the law and abused their power, she has made clear that the vast majority of officers are dedicated public servants of the highest integrity who deserve our praise. Ms. Lynch is proud of her longstanding relationship with the law enforcement community.

In 2014, the EDNY, in conjunction with DOJ’s Civil Rights Division, announced an agreement with New York City to settle a lawsuit alleging that the use of two written tests by the New York Fire Department (FDNY) violated civil rights laws by disproportionately screening out African-American and Hispanic applicants. As the Court found, these tests bore little relationship to the job of a firefighter and excluded hundreds of qualified minority applicants from the opportunity to serve as firefighters. Under the agreement, the city not only compensated victims of discrimination, but created an entry-level hiring process that more accurately identifies the firefighter candidates best qualified for the job. As Ms. Lynch said at the time of the settlement, “We look forward to a new era in which African-American and Hispanic firefighters are full and equal participants in FDNY’s proud tradition of protecting and serving the people of the city of New York.”

Support for Ms. Lynch’s nomination is bipartisan, broad, and far reaching. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton, Former FBI Director Louis Freeh, and countless others support Ms. Lynch’s nomination. In addition, the Senate unanimously confirmed her on two occasions to be the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, a district that handles a wide variety of some of the most complex, diverse, and important cases in our country.

We strongly urge you to vote to confirm this important nomination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Zirkin at zirkin@civilrights.org or 202-466-3311 or Lisa Bornstein, Legal Director and Senior Legal Advisor at Bornstein@civilrights.org or 202-263-2856. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Alliance for Justice
American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity
American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Anti-Defamation League
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for American Progress
Center for Responsible Lending
Communications Workers of America
DC Vote
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Human Rights Campaign
International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
League of United Latin American Citizens
Legal Momentum - The Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund
NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Action Network
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Immigration Law Center
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
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National Urban League
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People For the American Way (PFAW)
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YWCA USA