



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: September 25, 2009
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

NAACP Calls for Swift Confirmation of Tom Perez to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights *NOMINATED ALMOST SIX MONTHS AGO, FULL SENATE MAY CONSIDER CONFIRMATION THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28*

THE ISSUE:

Tom Perez was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in March 2009. On June 4, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved of this nominee and sent him to the full Senate for confirmation. Now, finally, it appears that the nomination of Tom Perez might come before the full Senate for confirmation next week.

Tom Perez has a breadth and depth of experience in public service, civil rights, management, and leadership that make him an exceptional candidate for this post, and the NAACP strongly supports his nomination. The mission of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division is to ensure equal treatment and equal justice under the law by enforcing and defending the civil rights of all Americans in areas such as education, employment, housing, voting, criminal justice, and public accommodations. Over the past 8 years, the civil rights division has been woefully misdirected, inactive, and has suffered from a high staff turn-over, combined with low morale, which has effectively decimated the division. As a result, the American people, and especially our nation's racial and ethnic minority communities, are clearly facing a crisis in confidence as a result of the sketchy civil rights enforcement. Tom Perez is the right person at this time to work with Attorney General Eric Holder to rebuild not only the Civil Rights Division, but also our country's reputation as a defender of the rights of all Americans to pursue the Constitutional promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

With experience in the executive and legislative branches at both the federal and state levels, Tom Perez has a proven track record in the area of civil rights enforcement, understands the issues he will face, is committed to securing and defending civil rights, and has the proven management abilities necessary to effectively restore integrity to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division at this pivotal juncture. He has worked in practice at the Civil Rights Division, where he began as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Section, and rose to become its Deputy Chief. In January 1998, Mr. Perez became Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He is well versed in not only many of the issues facing the Civil Rights Division at this time, but he is also keenly aware of how the division should be operating, and the challenges he will face in the upcoming years.

**THE NAACP STRONGLY SUPPORTS TOM PEREZ'S NOMINATION AND ENCOURAGES ALL
SENATORS TO SUPPORT HIS SWIFT CONFIRMATION.**

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO SUPPORT TOM PEREZ'S SWIFT CONFIRMATION TO SERVE AS ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.** To contact your Senators you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

~~✓ **Write a Letter**~~

~~To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510~~

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Over the past 8 years, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights division has been woefully misdirected and inactive and has suffered from high staff turn-over, which, when combined with low morale have effectively decimated the division. As a result, the American people, and especially our nation's racial and ethnic minority communities, are clearly facing a crisis in confidence as a result of the sketchy civil rights enforcement.
- Tom Perez is the right person at this time to work with Attorney General Eric Holder to rebuild not only the Civil Rights Division, but also our country's reputation as a defender of the rights of all Americans to pursue the Constitutional promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Tom Perez has a breadth and depth of experience in public service, civil rights, management, and leadership that make him an exceptional candidate to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.
- The NAACP calls on the United States Senate should act swiftly to confirm Tom Perez so he can begin to put real reforms into place and rebuild the Civil Rights division of the US Department of Justice.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

**No time to
send a
letter!
Call, fax
or
e-mail
TODAY!**

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: SUPPORT FOR TOM PEREZ'S SWIFT CONFIRMATION AS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I am writing to strongly urge you to support Tom Perez's swift confirmation by the full Senate of Mr. Tom Perez to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Over the past 8 years, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights division has been woefully inactive, and high staff turn-over, combined with low morale, have effectively decimated the division. As a result, the American people, and especially our nation's racial and ethnic minority communities, are clearly facing a crisis in confidence as a result of the sketchy civil rights enforcement. Tom Perez is the right person at this time to work with Attorney General Eric Holder to rebuild not only the Civil Rights Division, but also our country's reputation as a defender of the rights of all Americans to pursue the Constitutional promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Tom Perez has a breadth and depth of experience in public service, civil rights, management, and leadership that make him an exceptional candidate to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. With experience in the executive and legislative branches at both the federal and state levels, Tom Perez has a proven track record in the area of civil rights enforcement, understands the issues he will face, is committed to securing and defending civil rights, and has the proven management abilities necessary to effectively restore integrity to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division at this pivotal juncture.

It has been six months since President Obama nominated Tom Perez to head our nation's highest civil rights office. The United States Senate should act swiftly to confirm Tom Perez so he can begin to put real reforms into place and rebuild the Civil Rights division of the US Department of Justice. Our Nation deserves nothing less.

Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you are doing to ensure Tom Perez's swift confirmation, and what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact
BOTH your Senators.*