



March 15, 2016

**Hon. Mitch McConnell**  
 U.S. Senate Majority Leader  
 317 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

**Hon. Charles Grassley**  
 Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
 135 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

**Hon. Harry Reid**  
 U.S. Senate Minority Leader  
 522 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

**Hon. Patrick Leahy**  
 Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
 437 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley, Minority Leader Reid, and Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Leahy:

We, as young leaders committed to justice and equality for all, strongly urge you to carry out your Constitutionally-prescribed duties of the position of a United States Senator and promptly and fairly consider any individual President Obama nominates to fill the current vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. To do otherwise would be reckless, disrespectful to the Constitution as well as all three branches of the federal government and the American people, and frankly, utterly irresponsible.

Under the terms of the United States Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, "...[The President] shall...nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ...Judges of the Supreme Court..." President Barack Obama is and will be President for the next 11 months, and it is his responsibility to move as expeditiously as possible to fill this vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, opened with the passing of Justice Antonin G. Scalia, so that cases may be resolved, guidance may be provided to our judicial system, and justice may be served. It is also the clear responsibility of the United States Senate to consider carefully any nominee sent forward by the President as expeditiously as possible.

There exists a long history of challenging, through the U.S. Courts, laws which are unfair and counter to the tenets of the U.S. Constitution. For any person or group of individuals to intentionally leave a vacancy open for what most experts believe will be at least a year on the court of last resorts would be unprecedented, irresponsible, and disrespectful of the very Constitution under which we live, and you serve.

Given the importance of the position which was left vacant by Justice Scalia's passing, we firmly urge you to move forward with your Constitutional responsibility of "advise and consent" and hold hearings, and ultimately a vote, on the next nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thank you for your attention to our concern.

**For Justice Sake,**

**Stephen A. Green**, National Director  
NAACP Youth and College Division

**Mary-Pat Hector**, National Youth Director  
National Action Network

**Carlos J. Clanton**, President  
National Urban League Young Professionals

**Derick Dailey**, National Chair  
Black Law Students Association

**Natalia Abrams**, Executive Director  
Student Debt Crisis

**Brendien Mitchell**, President  
Howard University Student Association

**Will Chandler**, President  
Morehouse Student Government Association

**LaKesha S. Womack**, Chairperson  
Young Adults in Christian Ministries  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

**Chinelo C. Tyler**, International President  
Young People's and Children's Division  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Dr. Felecia Commodore**, Young Adult Representative  
Connectional Lay Organization  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Martinique Mix**, Connectional President  
Richard Allen Young Adult Council  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Brandon J. Smith**, International President  
Varick International Christian Youth Council  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

**Autumn Kyles**, International Second Vice President  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

**Anthony Kadri**, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

**Knyra C. Ratcliff**, International Second Grand Anti-Basileus  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

**Devon J. Crawford**, Co-Chair  
Al-Chemy-in-Color  
University of Chicago Divinity School

**Leland Shelton**, President  
Harvard Black Law Students Association

**The Reverend James Wesley Dennis, III**, President  
Vanderbilt Black Seminars

**Christopher McCroy**, President  
Martin L. King, Jr. International Chapel Assistants  
Morehouse College

**Spanky F. Edwards**, Founder/CEO  
National Peace and Nonviolence Leadership Institute  
Vanderbilt Divinity School

**Segun Idowu**, Co-Organizer  
Boston Police Camera Action Team