



## Debo Adegbile – A Leader to Advance the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

The Department of Justice Civil Rights Division plays a critical role in protecting the rights of people with disabilities and effectuating the promise of integration and access in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Mr. Adegbile's history of skillful representation and bipartisan consensus-building makes him an ideal leader to enforce and advance the rights of people with disabilities at the Civil Rights Division.

Mr. Adegbile will carry on the recent ground-breaking work of the Civil Rights Division in advancing the employment and community integration of people with disabilities. The Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing the mandate in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) that people with disabilities receive services in the least restrictive setting to the person's liberty. The *Olmstead* decision has improved the lives of millions of people with disabilities by providing them the opportunity for full community integration in their homes, their jobs, and their daily lives.

Recent work by the Civil Rights Division has demonstrated the ways in which effective leadership can help people with disabilities. In the past few years, the Division reached landmark settlement agreements with the states of Virginia, Delaware, and Georgia allowing these states to transition from a heavy reliance on institutional settings to a system focused on individualized and cost-effective community-based services promoting full participation by people with disabilities in community life. Last year, the Division also filed a Motion to Intervene in *Lane v. Kitzhaber* supporting the right for people with disabilities to pursue employment in integrated settings. When applied in the employment setting, the *Olmstead* decision will advance economic opportunities and independence for people with disabilities.

Debo Adegbile is the next leader that the Civil Rights Division needs to carry on this work. He has respect and support across the political spectrum, including from former Solicitors General Paul Clement and Drew Days, because of his principled and measured approach to issues. He has demonstrated skill inside and outside of the courtroom in a variety of settings, including as a litigator for a large corporate law firm and for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, and twice arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Adegbile has the experience and understanding of civil rights laws that would enable him to effectively enforce the rights of all Americans, including people with disabilities.

Debo Adebile has the qualifications and experience to make an outstanding Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and the National Disability Rights Network calls upon the Senate to swiftly confirm his appointment.

Curt Decker  
Executive Director  
National Disability Rights Network