



Adegbile's Background

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this issue:

Debo Adegbile,
Nominee for
Assistant Attorney General for
Civil Rights,
U.S. Department of Justice

Who is Debo Adegbile?

On November 18, 2013 President Obama nominated former lobbyist Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Adegbile seems to view everything through a racial lens. Just weeks after Hurricane Katrina — before all the dead were even buried — he was focused on the storm's impact on black political power:

Katrina, the NAACP's Adegbile observes, is thoroughly redrawing the political map in ways that will undermine black political power in the region. Fn.1.

“Adegbile is a professional leftist who has spent his career obsessing over race. Because his views are far outside the mainstream, his nomination should be rejected.”

-Nathan Mehrens, President, Americans for Limited Government

He is so violently opposed to preventing voter fraud that he called a voter ID card “a modern poll tax.” Fn.2.

In a brief that he coauthored, he argued that minority students might feel unwelcome if race were not explicitly included in the selection

process:

Petitioner's proposal to eliminate race from the holistic review process could, if accepted, send a message to minority students that a critical element of their identity is irrelevant to, or even unwelcome....

Fn.3.

He supported an effort by Obama's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to stop employers from using criminal background checks in the hiring process.

“We salute the EEOC's bipartisan effort to update its guidelines to ensure that employers are not unfairly excluding otherwise qualified applicants from the job market.” said Debo Adegbile, Acting President

Radical Racialist

Fn.1. Jonathan Tilove, *Can the Battle Cry of Katrina's Diaspora Be Made the Law of the Land?* NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE, November 7, 2005.

Fn.2. John C. Drake, *Experts say reauthorization of Voting Rights Act essential*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, October 21, 2005.

Fn.3. Brief of NAACP *et al.* in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, U.S. Supreme Court Docket No. 11-345. Available online at: http://www.naacpldf.org/files/case_issue/Amicus%20Brief%20-%20Black%20Student%20Alliance%20at%20the%20University%20of%20Texas%20at%20Austin%20et%20al..pdf (accessed January 7, 2014).

Fn.4. George E. Curry, *EEOC issues job guidelines that limit background checks*, National Newspapers Publishers Association, May 2, 2012. Available online at: <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-2671842511.html> (accessed January 7, 2014).

Fn.5. Patrick Howley, *Obama's DOJ civil rights nominee represented cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal*, DAILY CALLER, December 29, 2013. Available online at: <http://dailycaller.com/2013/12/29/obamas-doj-civil-rights-nominee-represented-cop-killer-mumia-abu-jamal/> (accessed January 7, 2014).

Fn.6. Marcus Franklin, *1965 Voting Rights Law Set to Expire*, ASSOCIATED PRESS ONLINE, March 31, 2006.

Fn.7. Statement of Debo Adegbile, before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, June 21, 2006. Available online at: <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-125569638.html> (accessed January 7, 2014).

Fn.8. *Hays v. La.*, 936 F. Supp. 360 (W.D. LA 1996).

Fn.9. Cristina Elias, *Activists stress importance of voting act Lawyers stop in Orlando as part of a national tour touting legal protections for minorities*, ORLANDO SENTINEL, August 5, 2005, at B4.

Fn.10. Amicus brief of NAACP in *Fenty v. Heller*, U.S. Supreme Court Docket No. 07-290 (2008). Available online at: http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/preview/publiced_preview_briefs_pdfs_07_08_07_290_PetitionerAmCuNAACPFund.aut_hcheckdam.pdf (accessed January 7, 2014).

Fn.11. Al Kamen, *Congress's millionaires, otherwise occupied*, WASHINGTON POST, October 28, 2011 at A16.

Fn.12. Financial information source: GuideStar.

See also, Manhattan Country School press release, December 2, 2013. Available online at: <http://www.prlog.org/12250302-obama-nominates-manhattan-country-school-alumnus-debo-adegbile-80-to-helm-civil-rights-division.html> (accessed January 7, 2014).

What you really need to know about Adegbile

and Director-Counsel NAACP Legal Defense and

Educational Fund [LDF]. "No one should be penalized for the rest of their life for mistakes that they made in the past." Fn.4.

While he served in leadership at the LDF, the organization represented convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal. Fn.5.

Adegbile appears to be a conspiracy theorist.

Long lines, flawed lists of ineligible voters, faulty ballots and machines often in predominantly black precincts were among the problems that plagued the elections.

Although those troubles had "racial overtones," they were considered administrative glitches, which the 2002 Help America Vote Act supposedly addresses for all voters, Adegbile said. (Emphasis added.) Fn.6.

Although the Justice Department has long used the Voting Rights Act to push states to create majority minority districts, Adegbile claimed that none of the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that were set to expire in 2007 "serves to 'balkanize' society or, encourages 'racial gerrymandering'." Fn.7.

Adegbile fought for a majority minority district even though it was not possible to draw a

second compact majority minority district in the state. Fn.8.

He claimed that if provisions of the Voting Rights Act were to expire, "Louisiana's black voters will lose 'access to the political process at every level of government'." Fn.9.

Adegbile coauthored a brief in the *Heller* case arguing that "the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right to 'keep and bear arms' for purely private purposes." Fn.10.

Two years ago, Obama asked the American Bar Association to evaluate Adegbile for possible nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. It is unclear why he did not receive that nomination. Fn.11.

He has been on the board of the Manhattan Country School, which he attended, for more than fifteen years. (The school is very proud of its focus on social justice and environmentalism as well as the fact that the school has no racial majority.) The school continues to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Even though revenue has increased, it hasn't been consistently profitable since the late 1990s. The school's liabilities, which were under \$600,000 in 1998, have risen to over \$2 million. Its lowest point in recent history appears to have been in 2011 while Adegbile served as chairman. That year, the school lost nearly \$750,000 with revenues of over \$4.4 million. Fn.12.

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