

Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III
President

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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October 24, 2011

Kathryn Ruemmler
Counsel to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Ms. Ruemmler:

I am writing on behalf of the American Bar Association to commend the White House's ongoing efforts to diversify the federal judiciary by nominating men and women of diverse backgrounds and experiences whose professional competence, integrity and judicial temperament qualify them for lifetime appointments on the federal bench. The ABA has a longstanding and unwavering commitment to increasing the appointment of men and women of racial and ethnic diversity to the federal judiciary and, as early as 1975, voiced concern that a judiciary that is not representative of the diverse community it serves runs the risk of losing its legitimacy in the eyes of the very people who seek redress in the courts.

The ABA also is strongly committed to supporting efforts to eliminate bias based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and disability throughout the federal judicial system, and to eradicate discrimination -- including discrimination based on disabilities -- in the legal profession and in the workplace in general.

To build on this administration's successful efforts to diversify the bench, we encourage you to evaluate current vetting procedures to further ensure they fully include disabled individuals seeking a judicial nomination and that there are no barriers or unintended bias that would in any way inhibit the nomination of disabled men and women with stellar professional qualifications to lifetime positions on the federal bench.

On May 7-8, 2012, the ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law will be hosting the Third National ABA Employment Conference of Lawyers with Disabilities at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington DC. We invite you to send a representative to this event so we may work together to ensure that attorneys with disabilities are full participants in the legal profession.

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Information about the conference is available at: <http://ambar.org/EmploymentConference>.
Katherine H. O'Neil, chair of the ABA Commission, would be happy to answer any questions regarding the event. She may be reached at: 503-222-4545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. T. Robinson III", enclosed within a large, stylized circular flourish.

Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III

cc: Christopher Kang
Associate Counsel to the President

Kareem Dale
Assistant Director, White House Office of Public Engagement & Special Assistant to the
President for Disability Policy