

**The National Black Law Student Association  
Opposes the Confirmation of Senator Jeff Sessions as Attorney General**

The Department of Justice has made extraordinary strides to fulfill America's promise of equal justice and opportunity for all. These efforts include ending the abusive use of solitary confinement, challenging the use of fines and fees to keep the indigent out of pre-trial detention, prosecuting hate crimes against vulnerable populations, defending the right to vote, and extending federal civil rights protections to LGBT women, men and children.

However, after the racially and politically polarizing Presidential election of 2016, the Department of Justice, now more than ever, demands an Attorney General who has a demonstrated history of defending the Constitution and its promises of equality for all; one who will stand for and defend the civil rights of Americans of all racial groups; and one who possesses a moral aptitude to ensure the fair and impartial execution of justice for all Americans.

Senator Jeff Sessions does not possess the character needed to lead the Department of Justice and his confirmation could threaten recent victories. In his last twenty years in public service, Sessions has demonstrated a glaring and brazen disregard for the civil and human rights of many in America. During his tenure in the Congress, Senator Sessions opposed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, all gun violence prevention legislation, the Violence Against Women Act, the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and Deferred Action for undocumented immigrants, among many others. Senator Sessions has shown ardent support for restrictive voting laws, the continued presence of the Confederate flag in all places, fought federal action to help the Department of Housing and Urban Development desegregate public housing, and has referred to civil rights groups, like the NAACP as "un-American" and "Communist-inspired."

Senator Sessions' confirmation hearing will take place Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Considering his dismal record of protecting the civil rights of those living at the margins of society, critical questions need to be asked about his past record on many issues of importance to this organization. Part of NBLSA's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who positively impact the community, however this message should not be limited to our membership, but all attorneys. As the record stands now, Senator Sessions has established himself to be anything but a positive impact on the community and it is important our membership create a united front to stand against his confirmation.

Join the National Black Law Student Association in opposing this nomination by signing your chapter onto this letter. Together we can and should unite our strength for the wise preservation, not of races in general, but of the one race we all constitute – the HUMAN RACE.

Signed,

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Harvard Law School  
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights  
Under the Law  
NAACP Youth and College Division  
New York University  
New York University South Asian Law  
Students Association  
Rutgers University School of Law  
South Texas College of Law  
Temple University School of Law  
Texas Tech University School of Law  
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Transformative Justice Coalition  
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