National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



June 19, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa Chairman Committee on Oversight and Government Reform U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20215

Dear Chairman Issa:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) writes to you today in response to news reports that the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is preparing to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress. We urge the committee to refrain from pursuing this course of action, and instead urge you to continue good faith discussions with the Department of Justice on this matter.

NAPABA is the national voice of the Asian Pacific American legal community. Now in its 24th year, NAPABA represents the interests of over 60 affiliate organizations and over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys.

We believe that a contempt citation against Attorney General Holder would be damaging both to the critical work of the Department of Justice in enforcing civil rights laws and to the nation as a whole. We have worked with Attorney General Holder and have seen his commitment on a range of issues, including ensuring voting rights and language access and combatting racial profiling and human trafficking. NAPABA believes that we as a nation are best served by having a vigorous Department of Justice that is fully engaged in protecting the rights of all Americans and able to pursue these critical issues with the full attention of the Attorney General.

NAPABA supports the work of Attorney General Holder, and strongly urges that any consideration of a citation of contempt be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Wendy C. Shiba President-Elect

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cc: Representative John Boehner, Speaker of the House Representative Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member