



June 20, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the consideration in the House of a contempt citation against Attorney General Eric Holder on behalf of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), its Board of Directors and thousands of members in the civil and criminal justice systems across the United States. NLADA is the oldest and largest national, nonprofit membership organization devoting all of its resources to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel.

General Holder has been a stalwart defender of our civil and criminal justice systems during his tenure in office. He has brought a clear focus to ensuring that our courts provide adequate safeguards to ensure that the promise of equal justice under our constitution are met for all people charged with a crime, regardless of their income. General Holder has likewise provided a groundbreaking, and much-needed, focus in the Department of Justice on the growing justice gap for those in need of civil legal assistance.

We believe that a contempt citation against General Holder would serve to stifle the independent and aggressive pursuit of justice and civil rights that has been evidenced by the actions of General Holder. We need a Justice Department free to pursue our nation's commitment to those goals.

We urge you to refrain from considering the contempt citation and continue working with the Department of Justice to obtain the information Congress is seeking, while maintaining an appropriate respect for the role of the Attorney General in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo-Ann Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jo-Ann Wallace  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Eric Cantor  
The Honorable Darrell Issa  
The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer

