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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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## **RNLA Calls On DOJ to Abide By Stated Mission**

*Holder's Responsibility: "Ensure Fairness and Impartial Administration of Justice for all Americans"*

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) issued a formal letter to Attorney General Eric Holder stating, "Part of the Department of Justice's stated mission is 'to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.' In light of recent events, the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) is concerned the Department of Justice ('DOJ' or 'the Department') is not abiding by these principles and is instead putting political considerations first in its handling of certain important matters."

The letter cites specific examples that have raised concerns across the country. For instance, "The first example is the Department's voluntary dismissal of the civil suit against members of the New Black Panther Party for voter intimidation during the 2008 General Election and the Department's subsequent refusal to explain why this case was not pursued to the fullest extent provided by law."

"The second example is the Department's ruling that legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama to defund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) allows the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to honor existing contracts with ACORN. With each of these important matters, the Department has offered unconvincing arguments and has demonstrated a propensity for unnecessary secrecy in failing to carry out its mission to administering justice fairly and impartially on behalf of all Americans."

RNLA Chairman David A. Norcross released the following statement in conjunction with the letter to Holder:

"The actions out of the Obama Justice Department have been deeply disturbing to those who believe the rule of law supersedes all else in the administration of justice. It is not the Attorney General's job to pick winners and losers, it is his charge to enforce the laws of our country fairly and impartially. Today's letter issued by the RNLA comes on the heels of news reports that the Justice Department is appealing a recent ruling which stated the government's efforts to block funding to ACORN were unconstitutional. Thus far, Mr. Holder has not exhibited a commitment to vigorously prosecuting ACORN for its crimes against the government and the American people, and one can only hope in this appeal, a vigorous effort is put forward. As Attorney General, Holder's record of administering justice impartially is open to debate, how his department handles these matters will speak volumes as to whether politics is being placed before principle."

To view the RNLA's letter, [click here](#).

### **BACKGROUND:**

**"The Justice Department has filed an appeal of a ruling last week that deemed the government's effort to block funding for ACORN unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Nina Gershon issued a preliminary injunction against the government last week, saying Congress overstepped its bounds by voting in September to cut off federal funding for the beleaguered community organizing group. Gershon sided with ACORN's claims that Congress' decision punitively targeted an individual organization, but the Justice Department doesn't agree and seeks to overturn the ruling."** (["Justice Department Appeals Ruling Allowing Federal Funding For ACORN,"](#) Fox News, 12/17/09)