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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8:00pm

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION SENIOR STAFF
ANNOUNCE WHISTLEBLOWER, RETALIATION AND DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS
AGAINST SECRETARY OF LABOR NOMINEE TOM PEREZ

MAKE DEMAND FOR DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION TO CEASE
AND
CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

Today, a diverse group of current and former members of the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division met with staff of the United States Senate-both Republican and Democrat-to outline substantial misconduct allegations against Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez. Mr. Perez is pending confirmation before the Senate as Secretary of Labor, and is rumored to be considered for a vote as early as this weekend.

Earlier this year, the Civil Rights Division, at the direction of Mr. Perez and his senior staff, began a widespread campaign of disparate treatment discrimination against Civil Rights Division employees who were disabled (mobility; hearing; vision; emotional; physical or mental condition); as well as of protected status based on race; gender; age; and/or parental status. Upon opposing this widespread, unlawful discrimination, DOJ employees have been subjected to an exceptionally hostile work environment and unlawful retaliation.

In addition, members of the Civil Rights Division also presented evidence to the Senate today of statistical evidence of disparate impact discrimination under the leadership of Mr. Perez. During Mr. Perez' time as head of the Civil Rights Division, hiring and employment of Hispanic staff has decreased by a statistically significant percentage. But for discrimination, there is no legal explanation for the decline in minority hiring under Mr. Perez' leadership.

The DOJ whistleblowers include two senior trial attorneys, one African American female,

one Hispanic male; a white disabled female sign language interpreter; a disabled former Voting Rights Section analyst; an African American breast cancer-survivor paralegal specialist; a disabled former paralegal specialist; and the disabled African American architect who designed the only building bearing U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's name, built during his lifetime. Each of these employees is also over age 40, and thus protected under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The Hispanic trial attorney whistleblower is the former founder of the national Hispanic Bar Association, as well as a founder of the local, District of Columbia Hispanic Bar Association.

In addition to Goodwin Weber PLLC's whistleblower clients, approximately ten other DOJ Civil Rights officials have come forward as witnesses and provided corroborating information supporting these allegations. Goodwin Weber PLLC's investigators met with each witness personally. The whistleblowers and witnesses are residents of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. Two are also former residents of California.

According to the DOJ whistleblowers and witnesses, the Perez actions are directed at preserving the positions of political appointees who have "burrowed" into Civil Rights Division through Perez's patronage. Now, under fiscal constraints, Perez has directed senior DOJ staff to constructively terminate career staff in order to protect the political appointees from a Reduction in Force.

In addition, according to the DOJ whistleblowers, shortly after arriving at DOJ, Perez began apparent attempts at suppressing documentation of EEO violations within the Civil Rights Division. What first appeared to be numerous individual cases of discrimination has now aggregated over time to reveal a systemic practice of intentional noncompliance with federal sector EEO policies applicable to all federal agencies. In this manner, DOJ deflected and minimized the nature and severity of employee requests for EEOC compliance, creating a false and misleading "appearance" of "model agency" compliance within the Civil Rights Division.

The compromised integrity of DOJ civil rights EEOC compliance results not only in past and current harm to the numerous individual complainants who have risked and received retaliation for coming forward, but deceived Congress and the American public by presenting under-reported, inaccurate information to Congress that belies the actual enforcement of civil rights within the Department of Justice.

David P. Weber, the DOJ whistleblowers' attorney, issued the following statement: "Tom Perez has been nominated to be the protector of the American workforce. Yet, my clients have reported to Congress that under Mr. Perez, the Civil Rights Division rampantly discriminates against its own workforce, and retaliates against those brave enough to raise their hand."

Mr. Weber further stated that, "after investigating the complaints of these whistleblowers, it appears it is 'Opposites Day' at the Department of Justice. While Mr. Perez and senior management of the Civil Rights Division sue private employers for discrimination and retaliation, they have no hesitation in discriminating against their own disabled, minority, whistleblowing staff. This cannot stand. We call on Congress to investigate these serious allegations, hold Mr. Perez' nomination pending investigation, and demand that the Attorney General take immediate steps to curtail the discrimination and retaliation."

Mr. Weber is the principal attorney and a certified fraud examiner in Goodwin Weber, PLLC's Washington, DC Office. He is licensed to practice law in New York, Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as before the United States Supreme Court. Goodwin Weber PLLC is a boutique law firm with offices in Montgomery County, Maryland, New York City, and the District of Columbia. Mr. Weber is the former Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and himself a prominent whistleblower. Mr. Weber also teaches fraud, forensic investigation and accounting at the University of Maryland University College. You can read more about Mr. Weber's practice at www.goodwinweberlaw.com.

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