



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

624 NINTH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20425

www.usccr.gov

January 29, 2010

VIA FAX (202-616-0222) AND E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Joseph H. Hunt, Esq.
Director, Federal Programs Branch
Civil Division
United States Department of Justice
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hunt:

As you may be aware, on February 12, 2010, the Commission will be holding a hearing with regard to the New Black Panther Party litigation and the decision-making at the Department of Justice regarding same.

Up to this point, the Department has precluded the Commission from deposing Christopher Coates and J. Christian Adams, Department personnel who worked on the case.

It is requested that the Department reconsider its position and that Mr. Coates and Mr. Adams be allowed to testify before the Commission on February 12, 2010. In the event that permission is denied, however, it is requested that the Department detail its reasons for precluding such testimony.

It is requested that you please respond to this request no later than February 5, 2010. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Blackwood", written over a white background.

David Blackwood
General Counsel

cc: Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds
Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom
Commissioner Todd F. Gaziano
Commissioner Gail Heriot
Commissioner Peter N. Kirsanow
Commissioner Arlan D. Melendez
Commissioner Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.
Commissioner Michael J. Yaki
Martin Dannenfelser, Staff Director