



Debo P. Adegbile

PARTNER

Co-Chair, Anti-Discrimination Practice

NEW YORK

+ 1 212 295 6717

DEBO.ADEGBILE@WILMERHALE.COM

Debo P. Adegbile, a member of the Government and Regulatory Litigation Group, focuses his practice on a range of matters at the intersection of law, business and government policy. He has significant experience in commercial, government-facing and appellate litigation, as well as strategic counseling in high-stakes cases, anti-discrimination matters and investigations. Mr. Adegbile co-chairs the firm's Anti-Discrimination Practice. In addition to his practice at the firm, Mr. Adegbile currently serves as a commissioner on the US Commission on Civil Rights, appointed by President Obama in 2016.

His broad legal understanding is drawn from years of experience in the top tier of the law firm, government and not-for-profit sectors, including high-ranking roles with the Senate Judiciary Committee and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Mr. Adegbile's recent representations include municipalities and local government agencies involved in US Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations and/or False Claims Act litigation; a leading social media company responding to a federal inquiry; financial institutions in connection with federal fair lending compliance, investigations and putative ERISA class actions; and a leading university in a constitutional challenge to its admissions practices. He serves as counsel to a number of clients regarding Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fair lending compliance and enforcement matters, as well as DOJ policing or "pattern or practice" investigations. Mr. Adegbile also advises social media companies and universities on a range of anti-discrimination issues.

Mr. Adegbile is a frequent speaker on Supreme Court and anti-discrimination law topics and has testified before Congress on multiple occasions.

Prior Experience

Mr. Adegbile began his career as commercial litigator at a leading large New York law firm where, for seven years, he litigated a range of complex commercial cases involving contracts,

international arbitration, antitrust, patents, employment, First Amendment, civil rights, zoning and real estate interests. Mr. Adegbile also handled multiple internal and regulatory investigations.

From 2013-2014, Mr. Adegbile served as senior counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, in which capacity he advised Committee Chairman Senator Leahy on a range of issues, including Supreme Court jurisprudence and litigation, the First Amendment, voting rights, national security, intellectual property and nominations.

Mr. Adegbile spent more than a decade working for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), where he served in several leadership roles. At LDF, he served as the director of litigation and supervised a broad range of complex civil and criminal cases in trial and appellate courts, including the US Supreme Court, and served as the final decision-maker for key strategic litigation decisions. Mr. Adegbile continued to litigate complex cases in his role as LDF's chief litigator, and led LDF to several major victories. From 2012 to early 2013, he served as LDF's acting president and director counsel. In February 2013, Mr. Adegbile argued his second US Supreme Court case: *Shelby County v. Holder*. Previously, Mr. Adegbile argued *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder* in the US Supreme Court.

Community Involvement

Mr. Adegbile is a member of the Vera Institute of Justice's board of trustees. He is also the vice chair of the Connecticut College board of trustees. From 1995-2002, he served as the first president of the board of The Catalog of Giving, a not-for-profit dedicated to supporting effective youth-serving organizations in New York City. He also served on the board of trustees of Manhattan Country School, an independent school in New York City, for 18 years, including service as board chairman.

Professional Activities

Named to the Board of Directors for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) in 2014.

Solutions

Anti-Discrimination

Big Data

Education

White Collar Defense and Investigations

Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation

Consumer Financial Services

Government and Regulatory Litigation

Bank Regulation and Enforcement

Crisis Management and Strategic Response

Litigation

Recognition

- Legal Services NYC (LSNYC) Public Service Leadership Honoree (2017)
- First recipient of the Latino Justice Vanguard Award (2016)
- *New York Metro Super Lawyers* list for appellate litigation (2015-2018)
- The Nigerian Lawyers Association's Law & Justice Award (2015)
- NYU School of Law Balsa Derrick A. Bell Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service (2015)
- American Constitution Society Keeping Faith with the Constitution Award (2014)
- The Bronx Defenders Partner in the Pursuit of Justice Award (2014)
- Southern Center for Human Rights Frederick Douglass Equal Justice Award (2014)
- National Voting Rights Museum Institute Freedom Flame Award (2013)
- Power 100 List of the Nation's Most Influential Black Attorneys (2013)
- Root 100 List of Top African-American Achievers and Influencers (2012, 2009)
- Council of Urban Professionals Catalyst Law Award (2012)
- NYU School of Law BLAPA Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award (2012)
- Alumnus of the Month, NYU School of Law (July 2010)
- Chauncey Eskridge Award, SCLC (2009)
- National Public Service Award, Stanford Law School (2009)

Credentials

EDUCATION

JD, New York University
School of Law, 1994

BA, Government, Connecticut
College, 1991

*Recipient, Anna Lord Strauss
Medal*

ADMISSIONS

New York

US Supreme Court

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

Federal Legislative Branch

US Senate

*Senior Counsel, Committee on
the Judiciary*

US Commission on Civil
Rights

Commissioner