

POPULAR, Inc.

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Submitted Via Change.gov
"Your Seat At The Table"

DATE: December 18, 2008

TO: President-Elect Barack Obama

RE: *Fostering a U.S. Justice Department That Fervently Prosecutes Criminal Violations of Civil, Constitutional, and Human Rights*

Dear President-Elect Obama:

The Civil Rights Division of our U.S. Department of Justice concedes that federal criminal violations of civil and/or constitutional rights "are invariably matters of intense public interest." See, <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/activity.php> According to the division, related "(a)llegations of official misconduct constitute the majority of all complaints reviewed by the Criminal Section." *Id.* Yet, "the declination rates for official abuse matters have been extremely high (i.e. almost 100%) under every administration going back to President Carter with only marginal differences relating to which party controlled the White House." See, <http://trac.syr.edu/tracreports/civright/107>

In 2004, the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) of Syracuse University noted that "competing social characteristics of the complainants and the accused (may) lead the prosecutors to make a social decision, to decline some cases that truly merited going to trial". *Id.* Surely with the indictment of Illinois Governor Blagojevich for allegedly attempting to auction-off your Senate seat, following a myriad of Republican-based scandals and America's largely fraud precipitated financial crisis, prosecutors can accept that high station is not a social characteristic necessarily inconsistent with criminal conduct.

Reuters recently reported that "(a)ccording to the (New York) Times, several former law enforcement officials said that senior administration officials, notably those at the White House and the Treasury Department, made clear that they were concerned the Justice Department and the FBI were taking an anti-business attitude that could inhibit corporate risk-taking." See, Chris Michaud, *FBI resources limited for economic probes: report*, Reuters – October 18, 2008. On behalf of poor and otherwise disenfranchised U.S. citizens, we hereby ask you to foster a Justice Department that is conspicuously pro-average American. Specifically we seek fervent prosecution of 18 U.S.C. §§241 (*Conspiracy against rights*) and 242 (*Deprivation of rights under color of law*) violations.

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We are founders of POPULAR, Power Over Poverty Under Laws of America Restored. POPULAR is an association of public interest attorneys and Juris Doctors, advised by a board of nonlawyer community leaders. As its name suggests, POPULAR strives to tear down the figurative "Wall Of Poverty" by helping safeguard justice and the rule of law in America, particularly when people, cases, and causes are unpopular. They are especially hindered by over-reaching, judiciary created civil immunities; the vanishing right to jury trial; and inaccessible grand juries.

Transparency International, a prestigious coalition of anti-corruption advocates, reports that "(i)n most democracies today, corrupt politicians, officials and businessmen can exploit both civil and criminal law to silence their critics." *Global Corruption Report 2007 – Corruption in Judicial Systems*, Transparency International, Part One, p 110. You and Vice-President-Elect Joseph Biden have promised to counterbalance such abuses of power. That can hardly be done through a U.S. Justice Department more responsive to power, wealth and the corresponding prestige than compelling evidence of criminal civil, constitutional, and human rights violations.

To help substantiate that you and Vice-President-Elect Joseph Biden have been true to your words regarding the rights of average Americans, POPULAR is preparing to periodically submit to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department after the 2009 presidential inauguration, compelling evidence of 18 U.S.C. §§241 and 242 violations. We have devised criteria for evaluating the user-friendliness or what we will call the "POPULARITY" of the Obama / Biden Justice Department based on our interaction with its Civil Division. Already candlelight vigils are being planned throughout America, in hope that our reports will be as promising as the vision for America, you and Vice-President-Elect Joseph Biden have shared.

For updates on our "Obama Lights The Way" campaign, please visit the HOME page of our website at <http://www.popular4people.org> Undoubtedly someone from our office will help keep you updated through direct contacts as well. I encourage you to contact me by email at admin@popular4people.org and/or by phone at 1.888.478.4439 Ext 2. In the meantime, please enjoy the holiday season.

Sincerely,
POPULAR, Inc.

By: *Zena Crenshaw Logal*

Zena Crenshaw Logal,
Executive Director

ZCL/abm

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