

Edward M. Kennedy
Massachusetts



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 205 10-2101

January 13, 2009

John Payton
Director-Counsel
NAACP-LDF
99 Hudson Street, Suite 1600
New York, New York 10013

Dear John,

Many, many thanks for the gracious letter from you and your predecessors at NAACP-LDF, and the copy of the Constitution commemorating Barack Obama's election. As we prepare to celebrate the inauguration of the nation's first African American President, I can't think of a better time to reflect on how far we have come together. Your organization has always been at the forefront of the fight for equal justice. From the great moment of the victory in *Brown v. Board*, to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to the most recent reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, your work has been a force in the nation's greatest civil rights milestones. It's been a great honor to work side by side with you in our nation's march of progress, and to count each of the leaders of your venerable organization as my partners and friends. I will cherish your words and the historic edition of the Constitution issued in honor of our President-elect.

Although there are still many obstacles to overcome, the new year and new Congress promise new and greater possibilities. I look forward to working with you to achieve them.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Kennedy", written in a cursive style.

Edward M. Kennedy