

Bazon Center Lauds the Work of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division

Washington -- March 13, 2013 -- The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law fully supports the work of Tom Perez as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

"Mr. Perez has been an extraordinary champion of the rights of people with disabilities," stated Robert Bernstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. "And Mr. Perez's important work at the Justice Department has gone a long way toward ensuring that people with disabilities are afforded the same opportunities as others," stated Dr. Bernstein.

Mr. Perez's enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision has brought opportunities to many thousands of people with disabilities to live in their own homes and communities, and to participate as full members of society. These efforts have fundamentally changed the lives of people with disabilities.

Mr. Perez has consistently recognized the value that individuals with disabilities bring and the contributions that they make to their communities and workplaces. He has similarly been a leader in promoting the fair treatment of women, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, and others who have experienced discrimination.

Tom Perez has been one of the most important voices of our time for improving the lives of people with disabilities, and we are grateful for his leadership of the Civil Rights Division.