

Each of us served as a senior Justice Department official under Attorney General Eric Holder. Many of us have served in the Justice Department under both Republican and Democratic administrations. All of us were disappointed to read David Ignatius's *Washington Post* column on June 9, which purported to represent the views of a number of unnamed Washington lawyers about Attorney General Holder's tenure. Mr. Ignatius never contacted any of us. Had he done so, he would have received a very different set of perspectives.

Our work, spanning a wide range of issues that come before the Department day in and day out -- from national security prosecutions to violent crime prevention, protection of the environment to smart policing, Supreme Court litigation to civil rights enforcement, prosecuting financial fraud to remedying the impact of children's exposure to violence -- showed Attorney General Holder to be a leader with deep integrity, excellent judgment, and an unwavering commitment to do the right thing without regard for partisan preferences. That is exactly what this nation should expect of an Attorney General, and precisely what they have in Eric Holder.

Indeed, it is odd that Mr. Ignatius criticizes Attorney General Holder, on behalf of unnamed sources, for, among other things, the Senator Stevens case -- a holdover matter with an array of problems from the prior administration where Holder made the difficult decision to throw out the case even after the jury had convicted Senator Stevens -- and then followed up with a wide-ranging effort to improve training and policies for Department prosecutors.

People should freely express their disagreement with the Attorney General's decisions, but impugning Holder's motivations only adds to the coarse tone that has plagued Washington for too long.

In our collective experience, Attorney General Holder has proved to be principled, fair-minded, thoughtful, respectful of others, inspiring of loyalty and steadfastly committed to the Department's mission. Most of all, Mr. Holder, a man who served at the Justice Department for more than two decades as a career prosecutor, understands profoundly the duty of a prosecutor to do justice. The Attorney General's character, experience and devotion to the cause of justice have enabled him to lead the Department with dedication and distinction, and the nation is fortunate that he remains the Attorney General.

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