

### **Esteemed Missouri Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community:**

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) is pleased to announce that Mr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa will be joining the MCDHH staff on July 14, 2014 as the new Executive Director. He will be coming from the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), where he coordinates statewide advocacy referrals for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians. Mr. Sotonwa has been involved with disability rights issues since becoming a lawyer in Nigeria. An Arthur Scandrett Scholar, he also holds a LL.M. (Master of Laws) from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude.

Mr. Sotonwa is currently the Vice President of National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He is the Chairman of the NBDA Board of Directors as well as several key committees within the NBDA, including the Bylaws, Media and Communication, and Advocacy and Policy committees. In addition to his service with NBDA, he is a member of the Diversity Committee within the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). Mr. Sotonwa is a member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), as well as several think-tank organizations that focus on disability rights advocacy. In 2010, Governor Steve Beshear bestowed him the highest civilian honor of the Order of Kentucky Colonels in recognition of his exceptional services to Kentuckians with hearing loss.



When you get an opportunity, please welcome the new Executive Director of MCDHH, Mr. Opeoluwa Sotonwa.

**Onward and Upward!**