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May 1, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member

House Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith:

Re: Restoring Adequate Compensation for the Federal Judiciary

We write as the General Counsels of the leading software companies in the United States and as the Board members of the Business Software Alliance, which represents the software industry. We would like to address issues before Congress relating to the compensation of our nation's federal judges.

As you may know, our companies create some of the nation's most innovative products and most important exports. We are heavily dependent on research and development, and we're one of the engines of economic growth in the US.

All of this is possible only because the works we create are protected by federal intellectual property laws. Given the ease with which software can be copied, it is hard to imagine our companies or industry having a sustained ability to invest or grow without the benefit of federal copyright, trademark, and patent protection. All of these rights depend on the continued application and enforcement of these laws in the courts by able and experienced judges. Indeed, because we experience on a daily basis the problems that arise in other countries that lack independent and healthy judiciaries, we have the keenest of appreciations for the vitality and independence of the judiciary that all citizens benefit from in the United States.

This is why we write to convey our concern about the ongoing substantial and relative decline in the compensation of our nation's federal judges. Today we face the irony that when one walks into a federal courtroom, the judge entrusted to decide the case may well be the least compensated lawyer in the room. This may be the situation even if one of the other lawyers graduated from a law school within the past year and is a first-year associate at a New York law firm. It may be the situation even if other lawyers in the courtroom work for agencies in the executive branch of the government.

No country can sustain a healthy judiciary if it fails to compensate adequately those whom it asks to accept a lifetime appointment to the bench. We believe there is an urgent need to make important changes to the compensation of federal judges. We therefore urge you to de-link the compensation of federal judges from that for members of congress—whom we also appreciate greatly—and to approve a substantial increase in the level of judiciary pay.

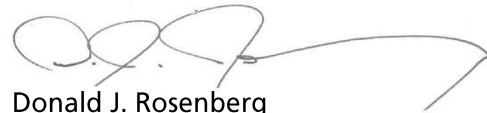
If there is additional information that we can provide on the substantial practical importance of this issue and for the future of technology in our country, we would be happy to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

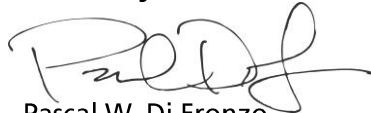
Very truly yours,



PP Karen O. Cottle
Senior Vice President, General
Counsel, and Secretary
Adobe Systems, Inc.



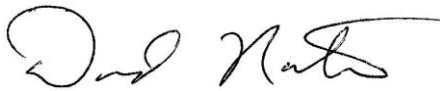
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Cc. Members, US House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary