



United States Court of Appeals

for the Ninth Circuit
P. O. Box 31478
Billings, Montana 59107-1478

Chambers of
SIDNEY R. THOMAS
United States Circuit Judge

October 28, 2003

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Hon. Lamar Smith, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Courts, the Internet,
and Intellectual Property
B-351A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 2723

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am a United States Circuit Judge with chambers in Billings, Montana. I write in opposition to H.R. 2723. I am also authorized to state that the following Ninth Circuit Judges whose official stations are within the boundaries of the proposed Twelfth Circuit join me in opposing H.R. 2723: Judge Otto R. Skopil (Portland, Oregon), Judge Betty Binns Fletcher (Seattle, Washington), and Judge Jerome Farris (Seattle, Washington). In addition, Judge James R. Browning (San Francisco, California), Judge Alfred T. Goodwin (Pasadena, California), Judge Robert Boochever (Pasadena, California) and Judge M. Margaret McKeown (San Diego, California), whose initial official duty stations were within the boundaries of the proposed Twelfth Circuit (Montana, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington, respectively), have authorized me to register their opposition to H.R. 2723. All of these judges maintain strong connections with their former states of residence. In particular, Judges Goodwin and McKeown wished me to emphasize that they spend a significant amount of time each year in the Northwest, maintain offices there, and retain close professional relationships with the bar and bench in Oregon and Washington, respectively.

Sincerely,

Sidney R. Thomas

cc: Hon. Howard Berman