



WSBA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ronald R. Ward
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April 28, 2005

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-4905

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
2426 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-2214

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Chair, Subcomm on Courts, the Internet
and Intellectual Property
United States House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-4321

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Courts,
the Internet and Intellectual Property
United States House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building 2
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judgeship and Reorganization Act of 2005 (H.R.211 and 212) – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner, Chairman Smith, Ranking Members Conyers and Berman, and Washington Senators Cantwell and Murray:

The Washington State Bar Association strongly opposes both H.R.211 and 212, the latest in a series of proposals to split the Ninth Circuit. We believe there is no legitimate reason to split this jurisdiction, and certainly no reason to incur the very substantial costs that such a split will generate.

The WSBA debated the issues of size, regional differences among the states in the current Ninth Circuit, judicial collegiality, and necessary consistency in rulings. The Board of Governors of our organization unanimously concluded that splitting the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals would not serve the interest of justice or the citizens of the state of Washington.

Working Together to Champion Justice

Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member Howard L. Berman
Senator Maria Cantwell
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We found the arguments that the split would diffuse case law and work against inter-regional commerce case law were compelling. There is no legitimate reason to duplicate administration costs, when caseloads are currently being handled as well as in smaller circuits.

The Washington State Bar Association urges you to oppose both H.R. 211 and 212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald R. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald R. Ward
WSBA President

RRW:

Working Together to Champion Justice

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