



The in-house bar association.SM 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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June 11, 2007

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The Need for a Substantial Salary Increase for Federal Judges

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC)¹, the bar association for lawyers employed as in-house counsel in companies, respectfully encourages you to support legislation that would substantially increase the pay of our federal judiciary.

You have already heard from a broad spectrum of the business and legal community – corporations, business groups, bar and other legal organizations, and law-school deans and professors – in support of a substantial salary increase for federal judges. This increase also is vigorously endorsed by the Chief Justice of the United States and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. ACC will not repeat their submissions, but we join in their views and believe they have made a compelling case for such an increase by any standard – whether judicial pay measured in real (inflation-adjusted) dollars, in relation to wage increases for senior federal Executive Branch officials and American workers in general, or in comparison to the higher salaries paid to other practicing lawyers in the profession (from entry-level associates in big firms to law-school deans). Reasonable compensation is an integral part of the country's fair bargain with the federal judiciary and is necessary to furthering the constitutional design expressed in Article III of judges who serve for life. As Chief Justice Roberts recently explained, “[i]nadequate compensation directly threatens the viability of life tenure.” 2006 YEAR-END REPORT ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY 6 (Jan. 1, 2007). Only appropriate pay levels will enable the federal bench to continue to attract and retain the very best of the legal profession from all backgrounds and economic situations.

¹ The Association of Corporate Counsel is “the in-house bar association”SM serving the professional needs of attorneys who practice in the legal departments of corporations and other private-sector organizations worldwide. The association promotes the common interests of its members, contributes to their continuing education, seeks to improve public understanding of the role of in-house attorneys, and encourages advancements in standards of corporate legal practice. Since its founding in 1982, the association has grown to more than 21,000 members representing more than 9,000 corporations in more than 70 countries. ACC has members in all of the Fortune 500 companies in the United States.

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ACC encourages you to support legislation that will substantially increase federal judicial pay to the scale suggested by Chief Justice Roberts. We thank you for your consideration of this issue, and would be pleased to support your efforts on this issue in any manner we can.

Sincerely,

Richard White
Senior Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel, The Auto Club Group (Dearborn, MI)
2007 Chairman of the Board, Association of Corporate Counsel

RW/sh

cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary
Members of the Board of ACC
The Honorable Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., United States Supreme Court
James C. Duff, Director of the Administrative Offices of the United States Courts