

# United States Court of Federal Claims

717 MADISON PLACE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20439

July 10, 2015

## **Via Facsimile and Electronic Transmission:**

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Minority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the United States Court of Federal Claims, I write to urge you to fill at the earliest opportunity the five vacancies pending on our court. Since February 2013, the court has been operating with fewer than the statutorily authorized sixteen judges. At this time, the court is comprised of eleven active judges. The court is assisted in its work by six senior judges who are recalled by me to active service; two of whom are carrying full caseloads and the other four are carrying caseloads at a twenty-five percent level, as is allowed by law.

Despite the court's shortage of judicial officers, our caseload continues unabated. The statutory requirements dictating deadlines for certain types of cases unique to our court, including government contract disputes – some of which involve national defense and

national security – remain in effect. The dollar amounts in dispute in our currently pending cases, which are often an indication of the complexity of the underlying issues, are in the billions of dollars. At least three different cases on the court's pending docket reflect a demand for damages greater than forty billion dollars. A sampling of one judge's caseload showing dollar amounts in dispute is attached for your reference. (Attachment 1.)

I appreciate your immediate consideration of our urgent needs. I am available to provide additional information concerning the court's caseload at your request.

Very truly yours,



Patricia E. Campbell-Smith  
Chief Judge

cc: James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts  
Kolan Davis, Majority Staff Director & Chief Counsel, Senate Committee  
on the Judiciary  
Kristine Lucius, Minority Staff Director & Chief Counsel, Senate Committee  
on the Judiciary

## HIGH DOLLAR DEMAND CASES

*July 10, 2015*

<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Type of Claim</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>Starr International Co., Inc. – 11-779C</i>	Illegal Exaction	~\$40 billion
<i>Sunoco Inc. – 15-587T</i>	Tax	~\$530 million
<i>Northern California Power Agency – 14-817C</i>	Illegal Exaction	\$120 million
<i>SUFI Network Services – 11-804C</i>	Contract	\$113 million
<i>Duke Energy Progress – 14-1001C</i>	Spent Nuclear Fuel	~\$100 million
<i>Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC – 14-343C</i>	Spent Nuclear Fuel	~\$100 million
<i>Aviation &amp; General Insurance, Co. – 14-687C</i>	Taking	~\$96.5 million
<i>Blackfeet Tribe – 12-429L</i>	Indian Claim; Breach of Trust	\$60 million
<i>Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma – 12-592L</i>	Indian Claim; Breach of Trust	> \$20 million
<i>Goodeagle – 12-431L</i>	Indian Claim; Breach of Trust	> \$20 million
<i>Bear – 13-51X</i>	Congressional Reference; Indian Claim; Breach of Trust	> \$20 million
<i>Holmes – 13-350T</i>	Tax	\$16.3 million