



July 18, 2017

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The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
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on Financial Services and General Government  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Financial Services and General Government  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Coons:

On behalf of Lawyers for Civil Justice ("LCJ"), I am writing to support the Judicial Conference's 2018 funding request for the judiciary.

LCJ is a national coalition of corporations, law firms and defense trial lawyer organizations that promotes excellence and fairness in the civil justice system to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of civil cases. For over 30 years, LCJ has been closely engaged in reforming federal civil rules in order to: (1) promote balance and fairness in the civil justice system; (2) reduce costs and burdens associated with litigation; and (3) advance predictability and efficiency in litigation.

LCJ supports ensuring appropriate salaries for federal judges and resources for the federal judiciary in order to preserve our high-quality, independent, diverse and impartial federal judiciary.

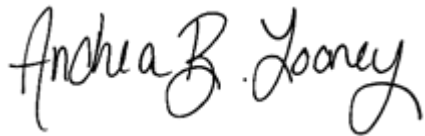
The federal bench is strongest when it attracts experienced lawyers from a variety of legal backgrounds. Life tenure is a critical element of judicial independence because it protects federal judges from the distractions and temptations of conforming their decisions with popular opinion. Judges are called to decide matters on the merits and not on the basis of how a decision will affect one party versus another. Confronted with inadequate compensation, however, federal judges might consider leaving the bench and returning to private practice. Judges who have one eye on their job prospects may be more tempted than others to worry about the perceptions and effects of their decisions.

In addition to civil lawsuits, the judicial branch also handles criminal, bankruptcy and immigration cases, among others. The courts also provide: pretrial and probation services in criminal cases; drug and mental testing and treatment services; and location monitoring both pre-trial and post-conviction. Meanwhile, court information systems are undergoing a transition to the digital

age and are vulnerable to failure and attack just like information systems in all industries. It is important for Congress to provide the courts sufficient resources to meet their obligations without forcing them to sacrifice in one area in order to perform adequately in another. LCJ supports sufficient and consistent funding for the federal courts in order to ensure continuity of service for all.

Thank you for considering the Federal Judiciary's 2018 funding needs and for taking into account the importance of preserving our high-quality, independent, diverse and impartial federal judiciary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea B. Looney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea B. Looney  
Executive Director

cc: James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts  
Judge Julia S. Gibbons, Chair, Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference