



Federal Bar Association

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Shelley Capito
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FY 2018 Funding for the Federal Judiciary

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Coons:

We write to express our strong support for the funding request of the Federal Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2018. We urge the Subcommittee to make these funds available to assure the Federal courts are able to fulfill their constitutional and statutory responsibilities as a co-equal branch of government.

Our Association's national membership of nearly 20,000 attorneys represents a core constituency of the Federal court system. Attorneys who practice in our federal courts look to Congress to assure that our court system is adequately funded to efficiently dispense justice. Attorneys and their clients, whether plaintiffs or defendants, turn to the courts with an expectation that disputes will be fairly and promptly heard.

The Judiciary's FY 2018 request of \$7.2 billion in discretionary appropriations will maintain current services across the Judiciary, and enable further investment in cybersecurity measures and other important program initiatives to support judicial operations. The House Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee on June 29 approved its FY 2018 Appropriations measure, providing the Judiciary with \$7.1 billion in discretionary appropriations for FY 2018, a 2.4 percent (\$167 million) increase above FY 2017. The House bill also includes one-year extensions for eight temporary district judgeships and seven temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

We are deeply appreciative of your Subcommittee's past support for the Federal Judiciary's funding needs. We ask your Subcommittee to take into account the commendable actions taken by the Judiciary to contain costs and implement more efficient ways to administer justice. Members of the Federal Bar are committed to doing everything we can to provide support for the Judiciary's efforts to administer justice and serve as a good steward of taxpayer resources.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,



Stacy King
Executive Director



W. West Allen
Chair, Government Relations Committee

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General
Government
The Honorable Julia S. Gibbons, Chair, Judicial Conference Committee on the
Budget
The Honorable James Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts