



## Federal Bar Association

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the lame duck session continues, we write to urge you to promptly schedule floor votes on pending, noncontroversial United States circuit court nominees and district court nominees who have cleared the Judiciary Committee with strong bipartisan support and who await a final up-or-down vote. The high number of existing judicial vacancies – 81, of which 35 constitute judicial emergencies – underscores the need for prompt attention by the Senate in fulfilling its Constitutional responsibilities.

We also strongly encourage cooperation among Senators to avoid undue procedural delays that slow the judicial confirmation process and compound the vacancy crisis.

Thank you for your past efforts and for your consideration of our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Silberman  
Executive Director

West Allen  
Chair, Government Relations Committee

cc: Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee