



Federal Bar Association

September 7, 2016

The Honorable Martha McSally
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Temporary Judgeship Conversion Act of 2016, H.R. 5675

Dear Congresswoman McSally:

I write to express the appreciation and support of the Federal Bar Association for your bipartisan legislation, the Temporary Judgeship Conversion Act of 2016, H.R. 5675. The bill would permanently authorize nine judgeships in the following nine federal judicial districts: Alabama, Arizona, California Central, Florida Southern, Kansas, Missouri Eastern, New Mexico, North Carolina Western, and Texas Eastern. Temporary U.S. district court judgeships currently existing in those districts would be converted to permanent status.

Temporary judgeships, which need to be annually reauthorized by Congress, are useful as short-term responses to improve the capacity of courts to respond to rising caseloads. However, chronically high caseloads and the potential costs of delay deserve more permanent attention by Congress. The failure to do so can have significant negative consequences upon our justice system and our economy. The costs of judicial delay are borne not only by litigants, but all citizens and taxpayers. Justice delayed is truly justice denied. Moreover, if a temporary judge retires, the temporary judgeship will cease to exist pursuant to current law, creating additional problems.

Permanent judgeships in the nine judicial districts identified in your bill will enhance their capacity to timely adjudicate immigration, civil and other cases. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important measure. Please contact Bruce Moyer, our Counsel for Government Relations, grc@fedbar.org, if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Silberman
Executive Director