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UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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TO: Judge Schroeder

FROM: Dr. Robert E. Rucker, Asst. Circuit Executive, Court Management & Research

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RE: Criminal Caseload

Here are some data on criminal filings since 2000. Data are from the AO and US Sentencing Commission.

- In 2000, there were 62,152 criminal filings in the federal courts, 14,762 (23.7%) were in the Ninth Circuit.
- In 2011, there were 78,136 criminal filings nationally in the federal courts, an increase of 25.7%.
- In 2011, the Ninth Circuit District Courts' criminal went up to 21,681 which was an increase of 46.9%. That's almost double the rate of increase for the national level.
- Almost all of the increase in the Ninth Circuit has been since 2008, when the filings were still only 14,599 (slightly less than in 2000).
- In 2000, the largest category nationally was drugs (17,505 28.1%) followed by immigration at 12,150 19.5%).
- By 2011, drugs accounted 16,730 filings, down noticeably from 2000. While immigration increased to 27,292 (34.9% of all criminal filings nationally).
- In the Ninth Circuit during 2000, drugs accounted for 3,567 while in 2011 drugs made up 4,865 of the criminal filings. This is the opposite of the national trend.
- In the Ninth Circuit during 2000, immigration-related criminal filings were 5,273 but increased to 10,091 in 2011. That's an increase of 91.4%. It is also 46.5% of all criminal filings in the Ninth Circuit. Most of this is due to Operation Streamline.
- Immigration filings were concentrated in Arizona (4,850) and Southern California (3,405).

- Child pornography cases in 2011 were 2.2% of the national criminal cases and 1.4% of those in the Ninth Circuit, so statistically, one of the smaller categories.
- During 2011, pleas accounted for 96.9% of the dispositions in criminal cases (up slightly from 95.5% in 2000), with trials making up 3.1%.
- In the Ninth Circuit, pleas were even higher at 98.1% (as compared to 97.6% in 2000), trials were held in 1.9% of the criminal cases.
- Child pornography cases had pleas 96.9% of the time at the national level and an almost identical 96.7% in the Ninth Circuit.

A few comments on civil filings:

- National civil filings were 259,517 in 2000 and increased to 289,252 in 2011 (up 11.4%).
- Ninth Circuit civil filings went from 44,533 in 2000 to 46,373 in 2011 (up only 4.1%).

Last point, we have not had a national judgeship bill since 1990. We have been fortunate in the Ninth Circuit to get a few additional judgeships in Arizona, Southern California, and Nevada. However, the recent weighted filings indicate we need at least five additional judgeships in the Court of Appeals, ten more in Arizona, seven in Eastern California, twelve in Central California, six in Northern California, four in Southern California, one in Idaho, two in Nevada, one in Oregon, and two in Western Washington, for a total of 45 additional needed judgeships in our district courts.