



## Federal Bar Association

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION HOSTS LARGEST CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY EVENT IN ASSOCIATION'S HISTORY**

Washington, D.C. — On Thursday, April 24, 35 chapter and circuit leaders of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) fanned across Capitol Hill to educate Senate and House offices on the urgent need for Congress to provide adequate funding for the courts, to take prompt action in filling judicial vacancies and to establish additional judgeships in high-caseload judicial districts.

FBA representatives met with Congressional offices from 18 states and Puerto Rico. The FBA delegation marked the greatest number of FBA leaders to participate in the annual FBA advocacy event, called “FBA Capitol Hill Day.”

W. West Allen, chair of the FBA Government Relations Committee, which coordinated the event, commented, “The Federal Bar Association represents the foremost constituency of our federal courts. As its practicing bar, we have a responsibility to continually remind Congress of the critical role the courts play, the challenges they face, and their ongoing needs for resources.”

FBA leaders urged support for the Judiciary’s Fiscal Year 2015 funding request of \$6.7 billion in discretionary funding, which reflects a small increase above FY 2014 to support the Constitutional and statutory mission of the federal courts. They also urged the Senate to work in a bipartisan fashion to promptly provide an up-or-down vote to qualified judicial nominees to federal district and appeals court judgeships. Also, in pointing to the consequences of delay to litigants when courts are clogged with cases, they underscored the need for Congress to establish additional judgeships in judicial districts struggling with extraordinarily high caseloads.

“We’re delighted that so many committed FBA leaders from across the country took time out of their busy schedules to come to Washington to educate Congress about the important needs of our federal courts,” Executive Director Karen Silberman said. “We will encourage additional FBA chapter and circuit leaders who were not able to come to Washington to also meet with their members of Congress back home to expand our message.”

The FBA Issue Briefs associated with Capitol Hill Day are here: { [www.fedbar.org/Advocacy/Capitol-Hill-Day](http://www.fedbar.org/Advocacy/Capitol-Hill-Day) }.

The 2015 FBA Capitol Hill Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2015.

*The Federal Bar Association is the largest national association of lawyers and judges who practice and serve within the nation’s federal courts. Founded in 1920, the Association is dedicated to the advancement of federal jurisprudence and to promoting the welfare, interests, education, and professional development of all attorneys involved in federal law. Its members run the gamut of federal practice: attorneys practicing in small to large legal firms, attorneys in corporations and federal agencies, and members of the judiciary. The FBA is the catalyst for communication between the bar and the bench, as well as the private and public sectors.*