

STATEMENT ON THE PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The continued partial shutdown of the government now threatens the operations of our federal court system. According to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judiciary will exhaust its financial reserves at midnight on Friday January 25. By that point, fee and no-year reserves will no longer be available to sustain federal court operations as they have for the past month.

Unless Congress approves an appropriation for the Federal Judiciary by January 25, the federal courts will suffer a lapse in funding and need to significantly reduce operations. The curtailment of funding will halt many civil cases and impact criminal cases in important ways, including the availability of fees for jurors and travel expenses. The Federal Bar Association is deeply concerned about these developments and their impact on litigants and the administration of justice.

If our federal courts undergo limited operations, judicial staff either will report to work without pay or be furloughed. Either way, federal judiciary employees, like their Executive Branch colleagues, will begin to become unpaid, widening the hardship already needlessly suffered by our nation's public servants.

The Federal Bar Association urges the President and Congressional leaders to end the shutdown, resolve their differences over border security, and assure adequate funding for the federal courts and the remainder of the federal government.