July 7, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for Non-Profit Association Assistance in the Next COVID-19 Relief Measure

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Federal Bar Association, I urge you to include Section 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations like ours in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and to reauthorize the PPP until at least December 31, 2020. Additionally, I urge you to pass legislation similar to the Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020 (H.R. 7011) to establish a system of shared public and private compensation for business interruption losses and event cancellations resulting from future pandemics or public health emergencies.

Our association’s membership is comprised of 18,000 attorneys and judges engaged in the practice of federal law and the administration of justice throughout the federal court system. We play a critical role in providing education and professional development services to the federal legal community. Our endeavors are diminished, however, by the lack of access to the Paycheck Protection Program and the financial assistance the Program provides. Our tax-exempt status should not bar our eligibility as a nonprofit organization from participation in the Paycheck Protection Program.

In addition, there is a compelling need for a system of shared public and private compensation for business interruption losses and event cancellations resulting from future pandemics or public health emergencies. Legislation like the Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020 (H.R. 7011) would solve a market failure by permitting companies to purchase business interruption insurance that covers pandemics so that they can stay in business and keep their workers employed when forced to curtail operations during public health emergencies.

The Federal Bar Association is grateful to Congress for supporting many Americans and businesses throughout this pandemic. Thank you for considering our urgent appeal and for your continued service to our country during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Christian K. Adams  
National President