



# Federal Bar Association

October 20, 2020

Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: “The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020” (H.R. 8591)**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to express the strong support of the Federal Bar Association for “The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020” (H.R. 8591), introduced by Representative Mikie Sherrill. Because of the urgent need to enhance security provided to the Federal Judiciary, we urge the House Judiciary Committee to provide consideration and approval to this legislation at the earliest possible time.

As the foremost national bar association devoted to the practice of Federal law and the vitality of the Federal court system, the Federal Bar Association is committed to the safety and protection of the Federal Judiciary. Our association was instrumental in the passage of the Court Security Improvement of 2007 (Public Law 110-177), and now we call upon Congress to enlarge the safeguards provided for the protection of the Federal Judiciary under statute.

As you know, H.R. 8591 would prohibit government agencies from posting personal information about judges on the internet and would authorize a grant program to help state and local governments prevent that information from getting online. In addition, the bill would protect judges’ personally identifiable information on the internet and provide incentives for states to take similar action. Under the measure, commercial data collectors would be prohibited from selling or purchasing personally identifiable information of federal judges. The bill also would permit injunctive relief and a private right-of-action if a person or group violates the law, if enacted.

We believe that H.R. 8591 deserves serious attention from Congress because threats against federal judges have multiplied considerably over the past five years. The availability of personally identifiable information on the internet about judges and their families poses a serious problem. The availability on the internet of the home address of United States District Judge Esther Salas contributed to the recent murder of Judge Salas’ son and the critical wounding of her husband at the judge’s home in North Brunswick, New Jersey on July 19. Sadly, the targeted attack on Judge Salas’ family was not a random act. The murders of United States District Judge

John Wood (1979), United States District Judge Richard Daronco (1988), United States Circuit Judge Robert Vance (1989), United States District Judge John Roll (2011), and family members of United States District Judge Joan Lefkow (2005), all represented targeted attacks. It is imperative that Congress take action against these kinds of tragedies and install the necessary safeguards in federal law proposed by H.R. 8591.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



W. West Allen  
President

cc: Hon. Mikie Sherrill, House of Representatives  
Hon. John R. Carter, House of Representatives  
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, House of Representatives  
Hon. James C. Duff, Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States