June 25, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Financial Services and General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Financial Services and General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

Re: Support for the Federal Judiciary’s FY 2022 and Supplemental Funding Requests

Dear House Appropriations Leaders:

We write to express our strong support for the Federal Judiciary’s FY 2022 budget request and security-related supplemental funding request. These requested funds are critical to assure the federal courts are able to fulfill their constitutional and statutory responsibilities. We urge your support.

The Federal Bar Association’s national membership of 19,000 attorneys represents a major constituency of the federal court system. Our members witness the daily need for an adequately funded court system that dispenses justice in prompt fashion in all criminal and civil matters. The federal legal community is knowledgeable and appreciative of your past support for the Federal Judiciary’s funding requests, and we are confident that once again you will take into account the important needs of the Third Branch.

The Federal Judiciary’s FY 2022 discretionary budget request of $8.1 billion will maintain services across the courts and sustain investment in important new or upgraded program initiatives to support judicial operations. The Judiciary’s request represents a 5.2 percent increase over its FY 2021 enacted appropriation of $7.8 billion. We note that a significant share of the requested increase in discretionary appropriations is dedicated toward necessary pay adjustments, inflation and other adjustments to maintain current services throughout the federal court system, including the Supreme Court, the regional circuit courts of appeals, district and bankruptcy courts, as well as probation and pretrial services offices.
In addition, we urge the Appropriations Committee to approve the Federal Judiciary’s request of $182.5 million in supplemental funding to bolster security.

The Judiciary’s security funding request will provide:

- $112.5 million in supplemental funding to harden the ground floors of federal courthouses against external attack;
- $10 million for a “security vulnerability program to proactively identify active and potential threats against Judiciary facilities and judges and their families”; and
- $35 million to reimburse the Federal Protective Service to upgrade aging exterior perimeter security cameras at 36 locations.

Furthermore, we strongly support the $25.0 million in H.R. 3237 for the U.S. Marshals Service for judicial security.

In conclusion, public confidence in our courts depends on judges who can independently make decisions without fear of reprisal or retribution. The assurance of security is vital to the satisfaction of judicial independence. The Federal Bar Association remains committed to doing all we can to support the Federal Judiciary’s stewardship of the finest judicial system in the world. We ask you to take into account the indispensable role the Federal Judiciary plays to assure adherence to the Constitution and our laws and the preservation of a just and healthy society.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,

W. West Allen
President