



# Government Relations Update

The Latest on Public Policy and Advocacy Developments from the Federal Bar Association

May 2024

## **Advocacy Update**

Post-Capitol Hill Day follow-up continues, with the majority of FBA's efforts over the past month having been directed toward supporting robust appropriations for the federal courts. In addition to the appropriations request forms many FBA members submitted to their elected representatives, on behalf of the FBA as a whole, FBA President Jonathan Hafen signed letters to the Chairs and Ranking Members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Appropriations Subcommittees with jurisdiction over the various courts' budgets, urging their support for the Article III and the Article I courts' requested amounts.

## **Legislative Update**

### **Judicial Security**

FBA has continued to advocate for full funding of the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, particularly the proposed state and local government grant program that would help cover costs of removing federal judges' personal information from state and local government websites. FBA took the lead on drafting and helping Reps. Sherrill and Fitzpatrick circulate a joint letter to the House Appropriations Committee that 45 Members of both parties signed. FBA members around the country asked their Members of Congress to submit the Aderl \$10 million line item as an appropriations priority and we are aware of several Members who have done that, including Senators Booker, Reed, and Whitehouse.

### **Judgeships Legislation**

There has been no committee action in either the House or the Senate with regard to the bipartisan Federal Judgeship Act of 2024 ([H.R. 7597](#)) or the JUDGES Act ([S. 2759](#)). Both bills would add the 66 federal district court seats recommended by the Judicial Conference in March of 2023, though the timing of those additions would be slightly different. The House bill now has four additional cosponsors: Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-12), Deborah Ross (D-NC-2), David Valadao (R-CA-22), and Joe Neguse (D-CO-2). The FBA does not take a position on which timing method is preferred, but is urging Members of Congress to work together toward a solution that addresses the needs identified by the Judicial Conference.

### **Independent Immigration Court**

There are no developments to report at this time regarding the Real Courts, Rule of Law Act ([H.R. 7724](#)).

### **Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act**

There are no developments to report regarding the Charter Amendments bill ([S. 2694](#)).

## Judiciary Update

Forty-five of 890 active federal judicial positions, including the United States Court of Federal Claims and the United States territorial courts, are currently vacant. Twenty-nine more judicial vacancies are expected through December of 2024, with eleven nominees named in advance.

### Current Judicial Vacancies – As of May 15, 2024 According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Court	Vacancies	Nominees Pending
Supreme Court	0	0
Courts of Appeal	2	2
District Courts	42	12
US Court of Federal Claims	1	1
US Ct of International Trade	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>

There are twelve judicial vacancy emergencies, based on caseload and/or the length of the vacancy, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

**Judicial Confirmations:** The Senate has confirmed one nominee since April 15, 2024.

Nominee	Judicial/District Court	Confirmation Date
Georgia N. Alexakis	Northern District of Illinois	May 1, 2024

**Judicial Nominations:** Since April 15, 2024, President Biden has nominated 3 candidates for judicial vacancies:

Nominee	Judicial/District Court	Announcement Date
Stacy D. Neumann	District of Maine	April 30, 2024
Michelle Williams Court	Central District of California	April 30, 2024
Anne Hwang	Central District of California	April 30, 2024