



June 14, 2007

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John E. Sununu
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
154 Russell State Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Federal Judiciary compensation

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Tri-State Defense Lawyers Association, representing Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, we are writing to express our support for an increase in compensation for the federal judiciary.

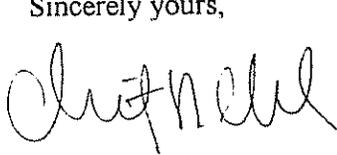
We in northern New England take great pride in the quality of our judiciary. Inherent in this quality is the imperative of fair compensation. The statistics on the trend of compensation, however, are startling. The rate of compensation for federal judges has eroded significantly over time. Although it is true that the salary of a federal court judge is much higher than that of the average American, we believe that this discrepancy is appropriate given the gravity of the job of federal court judge.

The rank of federal judge belongs to an elite group of our most distinguished jurists. These individuals are presented with a panoply of professional opportunities. Simply put, we want to ensure that such individuals consider the opportunity to become a federal judge to be the most desirable. We must attract and retain the best judicial minds if we are to preserve and protect the rule of law in the United States.

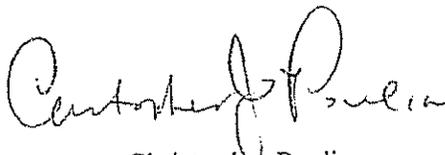
Sen. Patrick J. Leahy
Hon. Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Judd Gregg
The Honorable John E. Sununu
The Honorable Susan M. Collins
The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
June 11, 2007
Page 2

To maintain the quality of federal judges, we believe action must be taken. Please do what you can to safeguard and perpetuate the quality of our federal judiciary

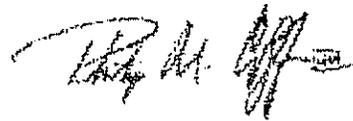
Sincerely yours,



Charity R. Clark
Vermont President



Christopher Poulin
New Hampshire President



Philip M. Coffin III
Maine President