



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE UNITED STATES
Presiding

JAMES C. DUFF
Secretary

April 3, 2017

Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States, I write to transmit the Conference's bankruptcy judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 115th Congress. The Conference recommends to Congress that it authorize four additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships and convert 14 existing temporary bankruptcy judgeships to permanent status, as set forth in the enclosures.

The preservation of current on-board resources in these courts is of great concern to the Conference. All 14 temporary bankruptcy judgeships included in the Conference's recommendation have a lapse date of May 25, 2017. These bankruptcy courts would face a serious and, in many cases, debilitating workload crisis if these temporary judgeships were to expire. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, for example, would be crippled as five of their six authorized judgeships are temporary, all with the risk of expiring in 2017.

Although bankruptcy filings nationwide have been declining in recent years, the districts included in these recommendations generally have experienced an increase in filings resulting in stress on existing judicial resources. Indeed, since the enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act in 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-8 – the last time additional judgeship resources were authorized for most of the courts included in the Conference's recommendation – these districts have seen weighted filings increase by more than 55 percent.¹

Section 152(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, requires the Judicial Conference to recommend to Congress the authorization of additional bankruptcy judgeships. Following a formal survey of all judicial circuits, the Conference determines where additional resources are needed based upon the circuit councils' requests and established criteria including each court's workload and case filing statistics, geographic needs, and

¹ This increase in filings compares weighted caseload in the nine districts referenced in the Conference recommendation as of December 31, 2006, the first full year after the enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, with weighted caseload reported as of December 31, 2016.

Honorable Paul D. Ryan

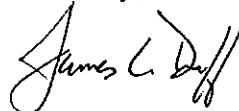
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pertinent additional factors. As part of this survey, the Judicial Conference also considers requests from the circuits to convert or extend existing temporary bankruptcy judgeships based upon the district's needs for stable judicial resources.

The Judicial Conference respectfully requests that you give your full consideration to the Judiciary's resource needs as identified in this proposed legislation. Additional caseload information concerning these recommendations is available upon request.

If we may be of further assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Office of Legislative Affairs, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, at (202) 502-1700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Duff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James C. Duff
Secretary

Enclosures

Identical letters sent to: Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Honorable Tom Marino
Honorable David Cicilline