



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE UNITED STATES
Presiding

JAMES C. DUFF
Secretary

August 19, 2020

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

The federal Judiciary was deeply shaken last month by the attack at the New Jersey home of United States District Court Judge Esther Salas, the murder of her 20-year-old son, Daniel, and the critical wounding of her husband, Mark. We are all saddened by this unconscionable act and the senseless loss of Daniel's life, and we appreciate the expressions of sympathy and concern we have received from Members of Congress.

This tragedy once again exposes the unique security needs of federal judges. Unfortunately, too many others in our judicial family have experienced similar grief. 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), family members of United States District Judge Joan Lefkowitz (2005), and now the son of United States District Judge Esther Salas were tragic targeted attacks against federal judges and their families. Unfortunately, threats have greatly multiplied over the past five years. These rising threats require immediate need for enhanced security procedures.

I have asked each judge to review their personal security status and that of their family. Additionally, judges have been reminded to review security procedures, to review the operations and effectiveness of local court security committees, and to consult with the district U.S. Marshal to assure familiarity with what services the U.S. Marshals Service can provide and to share any security concerns. We must make certain that every precaution is being taken to provide protection to all judges throughout the country, and more actions than these are needed.

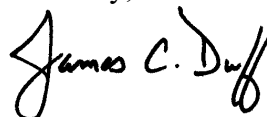
The existing security measures that are available to the U.S. Marshals, and those which individual judges can employ, help mitigate risks, but are outdated and insufficient. Additional measures must be adopted. Accordingly, the Judicial Conference, its Committee on Judicial Security, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts have undertaken a review of security procedures and requirements.

An initial assessment resulted in the following recommendations approved by the Judicial Conference.

- 1) Seek legislation to enhance the protection of judges' personally identifiable information, particularly on the internet.
- 2) Support the development of a resource, in coordination with the U.S. Marshals Service, to monitor the public availability of judges' personally identifiable information, inform judges of security vulnerabilities created by this information, and where necessary, advise the appropriate law enforcement of an inappropriate communication.
- 3) Support additional appropriations for the upgrade, installation, and continued sustainment of the Home Intrusion Detection Systems program to ensure that it is in line with current security capabilities and technologies.
- 4) Support funding for the U.S. Marshals Service for additional deputy U.S. Marshals in accordance with the District Staffing Model and pursuant to the U.S. Marshals Service annual appropriations request.
- 5) Support a direct appropriation to the Federal Protective Service (FPS) to fund the required upgrades for and cyclical maintenance of the security camera systems it manages at U.S. Courthouses.
- 6) Seek legislation to eliminate the sunset provision in 5 U.S.C. app. § 105(b)(3)(E), which grants the Judicial Conference authority to redact financial disclosure reports.

We will soon provide more specific details of each proposal to the appropriate committee Chair and Ranking Member. We look forward to working with you, the Judiciary Committee, the Appropriations Committee, Executive Branch stakeholders (Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security) and other interested parties in improving judicial security in the Third Branch.

Sincerely,



James C. Duff
Secretary

Identical letter sent to: Honorable Charles E. Schumer

cc: Honorable Richard Shelby
 Honorable Patrick Leahy
 Honorable Lindsey Graham
 Honorable Dianne Feinstein



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JAMES C. DUFF
Secretary

August 19, 2020

Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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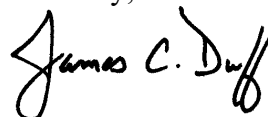
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Sincerely,



James C. Duff
Secretary

Identical letter sent to: Honorable Kevin McCarthy

cc: Honorable Nita M. Lowey
 Honorable Kay Granger
 Honorable Jerrold Nadler
 Honorable Jim Jordan