

DRI - the Voice of the Defense Bar Supports Salary Increase for Federal Judges; Nation's Largest Organization of Civil Defense Attorneys Backs Chief Justice John Roberts' Call for Competitive Federal Judicial Salaries

CHICAGO, March 15 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- DRI - the Voice of the Defense Bar, the nation's largest organization of civil defense attorneys, is urging lawmakers to implement a significant salary increase for federal judges across the board.

"While salaries in private practices are on the rise, the same can not be said for the judges serving in some of the most important courts in the land," said Patrick Long, President of DRI. "The fact that a first year associate at a law firm can make almost as much, and in some cases perhaps more than a federal trial judge should be a wake up call that we need to take an immediate and focused look at federal judicial salaries."

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts first identified the problem of poor judiciary salaries in a year-end report on the federal judiciary. In comparison to salaries of private practitioners who have the qualifications to be federal judges, Chief Justice Roberts reported that the pay disparity for federal judges is "so enormous as to almost lack relevance."

"Lawmakers can not turn a blind eye to our nation's federal judiciary," said John Kouris, Executive Director of DRI. "It is essential that the United States government is able to recruit the brightest and most unbiased individuals to sit on the federal judiciary. However, to fully achieve this, the compensation for these positions must be competitive with what such individuals are making in their private practices."

DRI has long remained dedicated to issues surrounding the judiciary with programs like their Judicial Task Force. The task force focuses on issues affecting judicial salaries, court funding, courthouse security, appointment methods of judges, and unwarranted criticism of judges. Recently the task force undertook an independent study regarding issues that threaten to disrupt judicial independence at the state and local level. The study will make recommendations on how defense lawyers can help resolve the various issues.

DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar, is the national organization of more than 22,000 defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel. DRI provides numerous educational and informational resources to members and offers many opportunities for liaison among defense trial lawyers, Corporate America, and state and local defense organizations. DRI also has an international presence, seeking to enhance understanding of the law among members of the defense community who have reason to be concerned with the expanding globalization of litigation defense. The organization can be reached at:

CONTACT: Daniel Rothfield, +1-202-973-1337, ,
for DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar