

June 13, 2007

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

199 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Burlington, VT 05401

87 State Street, Room 338  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Increasing Federal Judicial Salaries

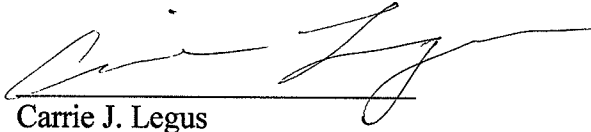
Dear Senator Leahy:

In our respective representative capacities for Vermont lawyers, we write to thank you for your introduction, and quick passage by the Senate, of S. 197, authorizing the annual cost-of-living adjustment for 2007. Further, we strongly encourage and are prepared to lend our support to any broader legislative efforts on federal judicial compensation. Specifically, we endorse the realistic goal of bringing salaries of the federal judiciary in line with salaries found in legal academia.

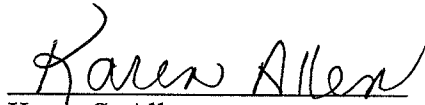
Chief Justice Roberts's year end report, stressing federal judicial compensation, includes cogent comparisons showing the marked decrease in federal judicial pay compared to legal academia and workers in this country generally. We need not reiterate this significant evidence for you. Similarly, the striking testimony this year by several Associate Justices before the House Committee on the Judiciary has surely come to your attention. Numerous professional organizations and think tanks have likewise added their voices to the call for increased judicial pay to support the independence and strength of the federal judiciary.

We write not to add to this body of sentiment and evidence, but, rather, to assure you that support exists in the local bar for increased federal judicial compensation. In Vermont, where private sector salaries do not rival those in large cities, the average citizen may view current federal judicial compensation as adequate. Nonetheless, we understand this is a national issue that transcends Vermont's borders. Accordingly, please feel free to call on us for local support as you move forward on judicial compensation legislation.

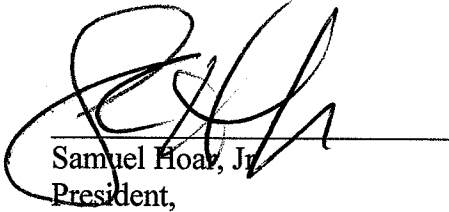
With our warmest regards,



Carrie J. Legus  
Vermont State Representative,  
Defense Research Institute



Karen S. Allen,  
Immediate Past President,  
Vermont Trial Lawyer's Association



Samuel Hoar, Jr.  
President,  
Vermont Bar Association