



Congressman José E. Serrano

Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

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Opening Statement of Chairman José E. Serrano Hearing on the Supreme Court's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request March 13, 2008

The subcommittee will hear testimony today on the subject of the fiscal year 2009 budget request of the United States Supreme Court.

We are all well-aware of the important role that the Supreme Court plays in our constitutional system, and the subcommittee takes its role as the appropriators of the Supreme Court's budgetary resources very seriously.

Joining us today to testify in support of the Supreme Court's budget request are Justice Anthony Kennedy and Justice Clarence Thomas. Both Justices have testified here several times before in support of the Court's budget request. We welcome you back, and we appreciate you taking the time to come and testify. We very much look forward to hearing your testimony about the needs of the Supreme Court, as well as any thoughts you may have on the Federal Judiciary as a whole.

For fiscal year 2009 the Supreme Court has submitted a request for just over \$88 million, nearly \$10 million more than fiscal year 2008. A substantial part of the increase requested for the Supreme Court is for the ongoing building modernization project. I look forward to hearing about how the project is progressing.

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Congressman José E. Serrano has represented the Bronx in Congress since 1990. He is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.