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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

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MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF JUDGES, UNITED STATES COURTS OF APPEALS

SUBJECT: Enactment of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990, H.R. 5316

This is to notify you that on Saturday, December 1, President Bush signed into law the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990, Public Law No. 101-650 (H.R. 5316). The Administrative Office will shortly be sending you a detailed advisory as to the provisions of this significant legislation. The purpose of this transmittal is to advise that enactment has occurred.

As you may be aware, this law is arranged into separate titles. The first four titles are of direct relevance to the Judiciary:

Title I - Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990.

Title II - Federal Judgeship Act of 1990.

Title III - Federal Courts Study Committee Implementation Act of 1990.

Title IV - Judicial Discipline and Removal Reform Act of 1990.

Several titles have effective dates specified. The remainder of the Act, including title III, is deemed effective upon signing by the President, which completed the enactment process. Although most of title III is not particularly time-sensitive, you should be aware that section 323 thereof amends 28 U.S.C. § 332(a)(1) to change the composition of the circuit judicial councils, requiring equal representation of circuit and district judges in addition to the circuit chief judge who presides. Since this amendment became effective December 1, prompt action is advisable to reconstitute the councils accordingly.



L. Ralph Mecham

cc: Circuit Executives