

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

November 28, 1990

L. RALPH MECHAM
DIRECTOR

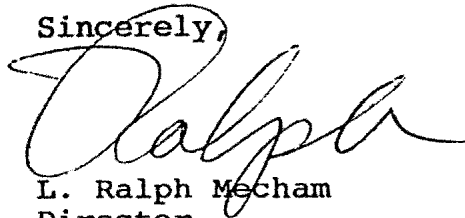
JAMES E. MACKLIN, JR.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Honorable William W Schwarzer
Director, Federal Judicial Center
Dolley Madison House
1520 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Judge Schwarzer:

Earlier this year, the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference reviewed recommendations of the Federal Courts Study Committee (FCSC) to determine what actions might be appropriate. Included was a recommendation that there be "a comprehensive examination of how courts handle scientific and technological complexity in litigation". As Secretary of the Judicial Conference, I have been asked to transmit to you the Executive Committee's request that the Federal Judicial Center undertake such a study as described on page 97 of the Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee.

Sincerely,



L. Ralph Mecham
Director

THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
DOLLEY MADISON HOUSE
1520 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

WILLIAM W SCHWARZER
DIRECTOR

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December 4, 1990

Honorable L. Ralph Mecham
Director, Administrative Office
of the U.S. Courts
Washington, D.C. 20544

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Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter of November 28, 1990 referring to us the Executive Committee's request that the Center pursue the studies set forth on page 97 of the Federal Courts Study Committee Report.

We will be pleased to do so and have, in fact, begun some of the work called for. A seminar has been held for a group of federal judges to aid them in dealing with complex scientific issues. More programs on the subject are contemplated. Studies are going forward concerning the role of expert witnesses in trials involving scientific and technological issues and, in particular, the use of court-appointed experts. Discussions are underway concerning the preparation of a manual to assist judges in handling complex scientific and technological issues. This is in addition to the *Deskbook for Litigation Management* which is now in the course of preparation and will deal, in a generic way, with some of the complex management problems arising in this kind of litigation. An article that I have written concerning ways of increasing jury comprehension in complex cases is being published this month.

We contemplate a variety of programs in this area in the future and will keep the Executive Committee advised.

Sincerely yours,



cc: Bill Eldridge
Dan Skoler