

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LOUIS C. BECHTLE
CHIEF JUDGE

17613 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
INDEPENDENCE MALL WEST
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106-1784

(215) 597-0581

November 5, 1991

L. Ralph Mecham, Director
Administrative Office
United States Courts
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Mecham:

In the course of fulfilling the obligations imposed upon it by the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990, the Advisory Group to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania made a recommendation appropriate for consideration by the Congress. At the direction of the judges of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, I am forwarding that recommendation to you. As approved by the court, it reads:

Congress, acting through the respective Committees on the Judiciary, should hold hearings addressed to the process of authorizing new judgeships and the processes of filling judicial vacancies.

The background of the recommendation is as follows: The Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 requires each advisory group to "identify the principal causes of cost and delay in civil litigation." 28 U.S.C. section 472 (c)(1)(C). The advisory group found that "The most serious problem facing this court is vacancies on the bench." (Advisory Group Report, Executive Summary, page viii, referring to text of the report at pages 22-25).

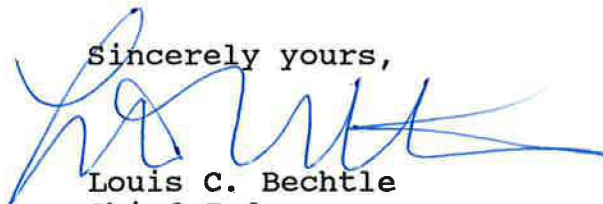
The plan for our district envisions a renewed spirit of cooperation and dedication by and among the members of the court, supporting personnel, members of the bar, litigants, pertinent professional associations, and the community. It is in that same spirit, and appreciative of the interest shown by the Congress in the problems of cost and delay, that we forward this recommendation.

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I enclose for ready reference a copy of the Report of our Advisory Group and of our court's Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan, approved October 25, 1991. Your interest in the problems of cost and delay in federal civil litigation is much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Louis C. Bechtel
Chief Judge

Enclosure

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA