



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Tom Cotton
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S.2340 – Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021

Dear Senator Cotton:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I write today to urge your action on legislation pending before you named after Daniel Anderl, the son of one of our most respected federal judges, Esther Salas. As you may be aware, Daniel Anderl was killed at his home because of a senseless attack which was directed at Judge Salas. The memory of this senseless attack on one of our New Jersey federal jurists is still a fresh wound and your support is not just to protect the safety of judges, but also to protect the integrity and independence of our judiciary which requires judges to make decisions free from the fear of harm or retaliation.

United States District Court Judge Esther Salas experienced a horrific attack at the hands of a disgruntled attorney who had appeared before her when he came to her home holding himself out as a delivery person, rang her doorbell, and shot her husband and son on her front doorstep. Her husband suffered critical injuries. Her 20-year-old son died. Judge Salas's address was easily obtained by publicly available resources that led this killer to her front door. Judges should not be in fear of their lives by virtue of the jobs they are appointed to do. I urge you to vote in favor of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021.

The purpose of this bill is to improve the safety and security of federal judges. It is not a panacea. But it is very much an important step towards limiting the publication of personally identifiable information that federal judges or their families voluntarily publish on the internet. To ensure that this is not a fruitless endeavor, the bill appropriates funding to state and local governments to implement the mandates of this bill. These critical elements of the bill will help give our judges some solace that their decisions will be made independent of any fear, anxiety, pressure, or reticence. This is the very foundation of judicial integrity.

I would appreciate any opportunity to speak with you about the merits of this bill. If there is an opportunity to meet, we can arrange that on our end through the New Jersey State Bar Association, specifically Lisa Chapland at lchapland@njsba.com or 732-239-3356. Thank you for your consideration of our comments and request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Domenick Carmagnola".

Domenick Carmagnola, Esq.
President

cc: Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq., President-Elect
Angela Scheck, Executive Director, NJSBA