



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

May 4, 2018

Donald McGahn, Esq.
Counsel to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. McGahn:

On behalf of the more than 18,000 members of the New Jersey State Bar Association, we write to voice our concerns about the number of judicial vacancies on the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and respectfully request that steps be taken as soon as possible to nominate qualified individuals to fill those vacancies.

The NJSBA is the largest legal organization in New Jersey and serves as the premier voice of New Jersey attorneys. Our members come from all walks of life, all areas and types of practice and all regions of the state. Our members represent the clients whose interests are being adversely affected by the continuing high number of vacancies on the federal bench in the state.

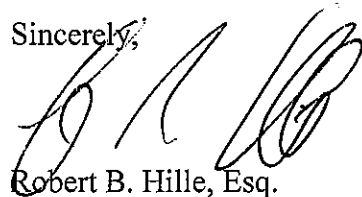
The District of New Jersey currently has three vacancies and is already in “emergency status” under the criteria established by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Three more vacancies are anticipated later this year when two judges retire, and one obtains senior status. While the number of judges hearing cases is decreasing, the number of cases is increasing. In 2017, 16,694 cases were filed in the District Court, representing a 47 % increase from the number of filings in 2016, more than New Jersey’s neighboring Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

In addition to the increasing volume of cases, the types of cases filed in the District of New Jersey are typically many of the more complex cases requiring priority attention due to stringent completion timelines, such as cases implicating patent infringement under the Hatch-Waxman Act. This is due to the large number of pharmaceutical companies having their headquarters and other operations in the state. Criminal cases filed in the District Court require priority attention as well because of the speedy trial deadlines. With the current vacancies and the number, complexity and time sensitivity of these matters, other, more routine matters pending before the District Court are delayed unnecessarily, particularly social security appeals. That means the right of average citizens to have their disputes adjudicated in an efficient and effective manner in the federal courts is being denied.

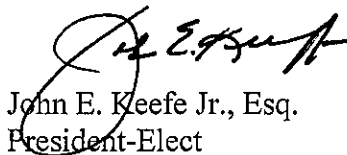
For these reasons, the NJSBA respectfully requests that the White House act quickly to nominate qualified individuals to fill the judicial vacancies on the District Court of New Jersey and take the necessary steps to ensure those nominations move through the confirmation process. The citizens of New Jersey deserve no less.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. On behalf of the NJSBA, we stand ready to provide any further support or information necessary to expedite this process and provide the District Court of New Jersey with the quality judges it so desperately needs.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Hille, Esq.
President



John E. Keefe Jr., Esq.
President-Elect

cc: Honorable Robert Menendez
Honorable Cory Booker
Chief Judge Jose Linares