

ALDA

AMERICAN LAW DEANS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

July 30, 2008

President

David E. Van Zandt
Northwestern University

Vice President

Rick Matasar
New York Law School

Secretary-Treasurer

Elena Kagan
Harvard University

Evan Caminker
University of Michigan

Michael Fitts
University of Pennsylvania

Larry D. Kramer
Stanford University

Saul Levmore
University of Chicago

Karen H. Rothenberg
University of Maryland

Stewart J. Schwab
Cornell University

Kellye Testy
Seattle University

Joan G. Wexler
Brooklyn Law School

Support Contact

Abby McCullough
375 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-503-8460
a-mccullough@law.northwestern.edu

The Honorable John Conyers
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers:

The American Law Deans Association (“ALDA”) is an association of over 130 of the deans of the law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. The views expressed herein represent the views of the ALDA Board (at left), but not necessarily the views of each and every individual member of ALDA. I write on behalf of the ALDA Board and the individual deans listed below.

We write to express our support for H.R. 3753, The Federal Judicial Salary Restoration Act of 2007. We strongly support legislation to effect well-deserved and long-overdue pay increases for federal judges.

In addition, in advance of a possible conference committee with the Senate, we write to express our concern about an amendment to S. 1638, introduced by Senator Feingold (the “Feingold Amendment”), a copy of which is attached, which could have a serious, negative impact on law schools and legal education throughout the country. We understand that H.R. 3753 does not contain this provision, which would place arbitrary restrictions on reimbursements and other payments to federal judges when traveling on educational missions. We respectfully urge that any final legislation approved by a conference committee not adopt the Feingold Amendment.

Federal judges’ involvement with law students and law schools strengthens the nation’s legal enterprise. Participation in moot courts and other events with students, academic conferences, advisory board meetings, and continuing education could be curtailed if the Feingold Amendment were enacted. Judges in Alaska, Hawaii, and non-hub cities, as a practical matter, could be excluded from such activities altogether.

The Federal Judicial Conference already has in place detailed and carefully deliberated ethical rules governing judges’ travel and lodging expenses when participating in these important, educationally valuable activities. We therefore believe the proposed amendment to be unnecessary. Although we strongly support the goals of increasing federal judicial pay, we oppose any amendment thereto, that would place arbitrary restrictions on judges’ travel expenses.

In addition to the ALDA Board, the individual deans listed below agree with this statement.

Very truly,

David E. Van Zandt
President

enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senator Majority Leader

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Ralph Brubaker
University of Illinois College of Law

Robert H. Klonoff
Lewis & Clark Law School

Jim Rosenblatt
Mississippi College School of Law

Peter Pitegoff
University of Maine School of Law

Toni M. Massaro
University of Arizona

Neil H. Cogan
Whittier Law School

David F. Levi
Duke University School of Law

William M. Treanor
Fordham University School of Law

Darby Dickerson
Stetson University College of Law

Douglas E. Ray
University of Toledo College of Law

C. Peter Goplerud
Florida Coastal School of Law

Jack M. Weiss
Louisiana State University

Rebecca H. White
University of Georgia

Nora V. Demleitner
Hofstra University

Steven L. Willborn
University of Nebraska

Gary R. Roberts
Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis

Maureen A. O'Rourke
Boston University School of Law

Frederick M. Lawrence
The George Washington University Law School

Ellen Y. Suni
University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Law

Brian Bromberger
Loyola New Orleans

Elizabeth Parker
University of the Pacific