

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewatch.org]

Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 1:06 AM

To: 'CJA'

Subject: thanks. this is important -RE: FYI, Elena, see below link

From: CJA [mailto:doris@judgewatch.org]

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 5:58 PM

To: 'Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)'

Cc: Beth@judgewatch.org

Subject: FYI, Elena, see below link

<http://legaltimes.typepad.com/blt/2011/02/judge-says-senate-is-injuring-federal-judiciary.html>

The BLT: The Blog of Legal Times



Subscribe to this free eNewsletter now

The Asian Lawyer < ALM

The BLT: The Blog of LegalTimes

An ALM Publication

LAW AND LOBBYING IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

February 28, 2011

Judge Says Senate Is Injuring Federal Judiciary

The slowing confirmation rate for federal judges means litigants aren't getting their cases heard in a timely way and fewer people are willing to be nominated, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said today.

Lamberth, the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, added his voice to those calling for the Senate and the White House to find a long-term solution to the delays in the confirmation process. He joins Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., who in his year-end statement two months ago blamed both major political parties for adding to the delays.

"I say to both Republicans and Democrats: You're injuring the federal judiciary," Lamberth said. "Our country needs a fair and impartial federal judiciary." He spoke during a panel [discussion](#) on the confirmation process at the Brookings Institution.

Lamberth reiterated comments [he's made before](#) that judicial vacancies, when combined with the caseload from the military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, are keeping his court from holding civil trials. "We plan to try very few civil cases this spring and summer," he said.

Though he didn't mention any names, Lamberth said the delays have a "powerful and negative impact on persuading the best and the brightest to undertake the process to become a federal judge."

There are three vacancies on the district court in Washington — although two nominees, James Boasberg and Amy Berman Jackson, face no public opposition and are awaiting votes by the full Senate. Lamberth said he hoped the two would receive votes this week, but instead the Senate is expected to vote on two nominees for the Northern District of Georgia.

Lamberth said that, due to the confirmation backlog, he encourages judges on his court to take senior status as soon as they're eligible. That way, their successors can be confirmed even as they continue to hear cases. "From my point of view, the sooner they take it the better, because then we can have some extra labor," Lamberth said.

Last month, White House Counsel Robert Bauer [urged](#) senators to end their battles over judicial nominees, but Lamberth said today that Bauer's speech "fell short."

"Nobody wants to do the part that [fellow panelist Benjamin Wittes] mentioned in admitting they did wrong," Lamberth said.

Posted by David Ingram on February 28, 2011 at 04:05 PM in [Politics and Government](#) | [Permalink](#)
[Digg This](#) | [Save to del.icio.us](#)

TrackBack

TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://www.typepad.com/services/trackback/6a00d83451d94869e20147e2e6e2c8970b>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [Judge Says Senate Is Injuring Federal Judiciary](#):

Comments

Although I am neither a democrat or a republican, I can't understand why democrats are being blamed equally with republicans for a logjam in the senate created by republicans. We need a lot more than good judges in this country, we need a government that governs.

Posted by: [Richard Greenblatt](#) | [March 01, 2011 at 05:08 PM](#)

Bruce--not every applicant applies. Some are approached. These are the ones who decline based on the uncertainty of the confirmation process.

Posted by: [Jim3K](#) | [March 01, 2011 at 04:24 PM](#)

To say that candidates are not willing to submit their name for appointment to the bench because of the backlog in the appointment is a fallacy. I have practiced in federal court for 18 years and no one that I know who was or is being considered for appointment has ever said they would pull their name out because of the backlog and the lengthy confirmation process! Furthermore, since when do sitting district court judges pal around with potential candidates to the bench? If anything it is the lack of pay that keeps qualified candidates from applying but those individuals are in the minority. The bench does need more help but to say people aren't applying because of the backlog is inaccurate.

Posted by: [Bruce Williams](#) | [March 01, 2011 at 12:04 PM](#)

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.

Post Edit | ↻

Your comment could not be posted. Error type:

Your comment has been saved. Comments are moderated and will not appear until approved by the author. [Post another comment](#)

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? [View an alternate.](#)

Continue ↻