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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 7, 1991

The Honorable James Lawrence King Chief Judge United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida 301 N. Miami Avenue Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Judge King:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your implementation of the Civil Justice Reform Act and, in particular, the advisory group you are selecting for your district. I was very impressed with what you told me about the membership.

I am excited about the positive lead you have taken. Assigning a law professor the task of reporting for the group is exactly what Senator Biden had in mind when drafting the legislation. We will do what we can to see that when a supplemental appropriations bill is considered, it will be clear that some of the funds may be designated for the reporter.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance, and do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or I look forward to hearing from you as you progress with the implementation of the bill.

Director

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

JAMES LAWRENCE KING CHIEF JUDGE

January 11, 1991

Mr. Jeffrey J. Peck, Staff Director United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Mr. Peck:

Thank you very much for your help and advice on the appointment of the Advisory Group and the problems we are encountering concerning minimal financing to enable the Group to perform its mandate.

Enclosed is a list of the very prestigious group of community leaders, lawyers, and judges that I have appointed to this important project.

As I indicated to you, we in the Southern District of Florida are desirous of evolving a plan for the expeditious handling of civil litigation in this district that will become a model for other Federal District Courts across America.

I am particularly pleased that former American Bar Association President, Chesterfield Smith, has been willing to lend his enormous talent and prestige to this project by accepting the chairmanship of the Advisory Group.

The enclosed letters from the Administrative Office and my reply thereto will indicate the problems that we are facing without some reasonable funding to implement the project.

Any assistance that you and Senator Biden could give the forthcoming request from the Administrative Office for a supplemental appropriation would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

JAMES LANGE III. 1993

JAMES LAWRENCE KING Chief Judge

JLK:cr

enclosure: Advisory Group Members

cc: Mr. L. Ralph Mecham, Director, Administrative Office

Mr. Chesterfield Smith, Chairman, Advisory Group

All Southern District Judges

Mr Burchill

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

JAMES LAWRENCE KING
CHIEF JUDGE

January 11, 1991

Mr. William R. Burchill, Jr. General Counsel Administrative Office of U.S. Courts Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: Advisory Group - Biden Bill

Dear Bill:

I am very disappointed to learn that we have no funds to employ an outstanding academician to be the Reporter for the prestigious group of judges, community leaders, lawyers, deans, and corporate chief executive officers that we have asked to serve on the Advisory Group for the Southern District of Florida.

I tendered the appointment to Professor Irwin Stotsky, a nationally recognized academician, author, and authority on federal practice and procedure. Although the matter of financial remuneration for minimal expenses and compensation was of secondary importance to Professor Stotsky, he is not going to be able to serve. Chesterfield Smith and I had felt that he would be an outstanding choice.

I have asked another outstanding academician, Professor Bruce Rogow, to serve as Reporter and advised him that we will continue the fight to get some minimum funding for this important project. He will advise me shortly whether or not he is in a position to accept. Mr. Smith and I both feel it is vitally important to have a well-qualified lawyer, professor, and author, to serve as Reporter who Chairman Smith will be able to call upon for substantial involvement and work. It is our thinking that if we are asking people to do this on a voluntary basis as opposed to being able to compensate them in some reasonable fashion, we will not feel comfortable in asking them to do the substantial work that we would otherwise ask the Reporter to perform.

I believe that this is consistent with Senator Biden's thinking and feel sure that he and his staff will be receptive to the efforts of the Administrative Office to obtain the necessary funding for this important work.

BB-6849

Mr. Willliam R. Burchill, Jr. January 11, 1991
Page 2

I have included a list of the Advisory Group to give you some idea of the outstanding community leaders, lawyers, and judges who have accepted the important work for our court.

Yours very truly,

JAMES LAWRENCE KING Chief Judge

JLK:cr

enclosure: Advisory Group

cc: Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Chesterfield Smith, Esquire

PROPOSED ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

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Unofficial Member