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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

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MEMORANDUM TO: Chief Judges, United States Courts of Appeals
Judges, United States District Courts
United States Magistrates
Circuit Executives
District Court Executives
Clerks, United States District Courts

SUBJECT: Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990

The Administrative Office has received many inquiries from the courts regarding Title I of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990, the "Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990," commonly known as the "Biden Bill." The bill passed the Congress on October 27, 1990, but it has not yet been signed by the President. We have not received an official copy of the bill, but the text can be found on pages S17904-S17907 of the Congressional Record, Part III, October 27, 1990.

The Subcommittee on Case Management of the Court Administration and Case Management Committee met today to address implementation of the legislation. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 478, advisory committees must be appointed in each district within 90 days of enactment of the bill. A memorandum will be sent to you shortly on behalf of the subcommittee providing advice on the appointment of the advisory committees and reporters. Other aspects of the legislation will be addressed by the full Court Administration and Case Management Committee at its January 1991 meeting, and you will be provided with additional materials as they become available.

The Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 authorizes \$25 million to be appropriated for implementation. It does not appropriate the money, however. Consequently, while the courts should begin their planning and implementation efforts, they should not obligate funds for such matters as travel expenses of advisory committee members and compensation of committee reporters until the issue of funding can be resolved by the Judicial Conference and the Congress.

L. Ralph Mecham