

## **Oops, Again**

Remember that pesky new law requiring federal judges to publicly reveal their oldest undecided cases? All but two of the judges in the District of Columbia filed their reports by the October deadline. On Dec. 3, U.S. District Judge John Garrett Penn, who is a legend at the courthouse for tardiness, filed his report.

It lists six bench trials—two of them dating from July 1988—in which he has yet to render decisions, and 10 undecided motions, including one from 1987. A motion or trial must be listed if it has been pending for more than six months.

David Vladeck, of the Public Citizen Litigation Group, said he was "struck by the fact" that a legal malpractice case he's defending was not on the list. There have been two motions pending since early 1990, he said. Other lawyers were surprised at the size of Penn's list. They expected it to be longer.

Penn said Friday through his secretary that he had no comment.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, who did not return calls, is still a no-show. ■