

Idaho Association of Defense Counsel

RESOLUTION

[Third Idaho Federal District Judge]

Presented and adopted by the membership of the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel on this 17th day of September, 2011:

WHEREAS, in 1890, Congress created the District of Idaho and concurrently appointed Idaho's first United States District Judge for the District of Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, a second U.S. district court judgeship was created in 1954; and,

WHEREAS, since 1954, the number of civil and criminal cases required to be heard by Idaho's U.S. District Judges has increased significantly from year to year, and Idaho's judges are now required to hear cases in four distant locations throughout the state of Idaho, placing a burden on our two judges and on the federal judicial system in the District of Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, there are 678 federal judges and 94 U.S. district courts in the United States, and only five of those district courts – including the District of Idaho – have just two judges; and,

WHEREAS, Idaho has the fewest U.S. district court judges (two) of any of the thirteen judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit; and,

WHEREAS, the Districts of Montana and Alaska each have three district court judges and the District of Hawaii has four district court judges, even though each of these districts has significantly fewer weighted filings per judgeship than the District of Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 census, Idaho ranks 39th in population size; and,


WHEREAS, among the 11 states with a population size smaller than Idaho's, 9 have three or four district court judges – and the 2 states with just two district court judges (North Dakota and Vermont) have significantly fewer weighted filings per judgeship than Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, ten years ago, in 2001, the Seventh District Bar Association of the Idaho State Bar sponsored a resolution, passed with 89% voting in favor, urging the authorization of an additional U.S. district judge to assist in the proper administration of case loads in Idaho; and,

WHEREAS, since 2001, Congress has not authorized a new judicial position for Idaho.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel be authorized and directed to urge Idaho's Congressional Delegation – Senators Crapo and Risch and Congressmen Simpson and Labrador – to take steps to have Congress authorize a third U.S. District Court judge and commensurate staff for the District of Idaho; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel be authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor and the current leadership of the Idaho State Legislature and to Idaho's Congressional Delegation.



John J. Burke, IADC President



Date