



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED STATES COURTS

JAMES C. DUFF  
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

January 21, 2016

Mr. Gabe Roth  
Executive Director  
Fix the Court  
201 W. Lake St., Ste. 153  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Roth:

Thank you for your letter dated November 18, 2015, asking for consideration of mechanisms to address the possible negative effects of aging federal judges. In your letter, you raise the possibility of the creation of a national wellness committee as one way to address this issue.

The Judicial Conference of the United States values the skills and experience gained during a judge's service on the federal bench. The Conference also recognizes the importance of addressing potential age-related cognitive impairments that may affect all of us. As such, the Conference and its Committees are engaged in discussions with the Circuits related to the health of federal judges and areas where the Conference can provide additional support.

Each federal circuit has a judicial council that by statute formulates internal policies for its own governance. Across the country, the various federal courts are empowered to craft mechanisms to address possible age-related cognitive impairments. As you note in your letter, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's Wellness Committee devises, maintains, and improves upon programs and resources addressing judicial wellness and disability issues. Courts in other federal circuits have implemented or are pursuing initiatives to address judicial wellness and disability, as well.

Thank you for your correspondence and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Duff". The signature is stylized and cursive.

James C. Duff  
Director