

Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr.  
Chief Justice of the United States  
U.S. Supreme Court  
One First Street N.E.  
Washington, D.C., 20543

December 14, 2017

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

Each December 31, you release a Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary. These reports have discussed the role of district judges, the process of judicial rule formulation and the need for Congress to provide the third branch with adequate funding.

Given the sexual harassment allegations that have recently surfaced, we think you should take the opportunity in this year's report to assure those considering coming forward with complaints about members of the judiciary that they will be heard and that justice will be done.

Additionally, we believe the topic of preventing and remedying misconduct should be discussed at the next meeting of the Judicial Conference of the United States in March.

We are familiar with the protocols of the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act and the roles that judicial councils and Congress play in the discipline and potential removal of judges, and we are not asking you to act outside the bounds of due process.

And yet, it is important that the judiciary be an outspoken champion for justice and equality. There should be clarity in every courthouse on how victims can report such incidents.

We are hopeful that you will use your role – specifically as the author of the year-end report and as the presiding officer of the JCUS – to speak out against misconduct and assure the country that certain behavior will not be tolerated. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Brown  
*Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law*  
USC Gould School of Law

Jennifer Chacón  
*Professor of Law*  
University of California, Irvine, School of Law

Sam Erman  
*Associate Professor of Law*  
USC Gould School of Law

Amanda Frost  
*Professor of Law and Director, S.J.D. Program*  
American University Washington College of Law

Ariela Gross  
*John B. & Alice R. Sharp Professor of Law and History*  
USC Gould School of Law

Deborah R. Hensler, Ph.D.  
*Judge John W. Ford Professor of Dispute Resolution  
and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies*  
Stanford Law School

Deborah L. Rhode  
*E.W. McFarland Professor of Law and Director,  
Center on the Legal Profession*  
Stanford Law School

Gabe Roth  
*Executive Director*  
Fix the Court

Karen Tani  
*Assistant Professor of Law*  
UC Berkeley School of Law

Suja Thomas  
*Peer and Sarah Pederson Professor of Law*  
University of Illinois College of Law

Abby Wood  
*Associate Professor of Law, Political Science  
and Public Policy*  
USC Gould School of Law