



Hon. Anthony J. Trenga
Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse
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Alexandria, Va., 22314
Delivered via e-mail: Anthony_Trenga@vaed.uscourts.gov

February 19, 2019

Dear Judge Trenga:

As we approach next month's meeting of the Judicial Conference of the United States, we ask you as the chair of the Committee on Financial Disclosure to consider our proposal to upload the annual disclosure reports of Article III judges to the website of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in PDF format.

The AO announced on March 14, 2017, that thanks to the work of your Committee, judges' and justices' disclosures would be made available to the press and public for free via thumb drives. We thank you again for that decision. Now, two years later, we ask you to take the next step in improving the transparency of our judiciary.

As of today, Fix the Court and the Free Law Project have each requested the 2018 disclosure reports from all U.S. Supreme Court justices, circuit court judges and district court judges. Once received, we would be more than happy to upload them all to our websites; however, since we believe in the importance of primary sources – and we would not want detractors to accuse us of altering documents – we think it would be preferable for all reports to be uploaded to a judiciary website, such as uscourts.gov.

Currently, that site includes several links that detail the judiciary's finances in a way that is instructive to the public. Since 2007, details about privately funded seminars attended by federal judges have been posted at [this link](#); since 2012, details about judiciary-sponsored conferences costing more than \$100,000 have been posted at [this link](#). And since 2011, federal judges have utilized FiDo, an online-only portal for filling out and filing their reports.

Finally, we'd be remiss if we did not mention that the current format in which the disclosures appear – TIFF – can be difficult to read depending on the operating system or web browser one is using. Therefore, we ask that the 2018 reports be disseminated in PDF format, which we believe can be converted from TIFF in a way that preserves the judiciary's responsibility not to include any private information in the public reports.

We would be more than happy to discuss our online disclosure request with your staff should there be any technical challenges, and we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gabe Roth
Executive Director
Fix the Court

Mike Lissner
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