

COURTS, LAWYERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE SECTION

Steering Committee:

Jornish F. Hitchcock, Co-Chair
Robert N. Weiner, Co-Chair
Richard B. Hoffman
Randell H. Norton
Thomas C. Papson
Jay A. Resnick
Arthur B. Spitzer



The District of Columbia Bar

Committees:

Court Rules
Legal Representation
for the Needy Civil Litigant
Legislation

SUMMARY OF LETTER TO CHIEF JUDGE HARRISON L. WINTER, FOURTH
CIRCUIT, REGARDING PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN DIVISION OF
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND --
EXPEDITED APPROVAL SOUGHT FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS BECAUSE
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE FOURTH CIRCUIT IS SCHEDULED TO ACT ON
PROPOSAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Dear Chief Judge Winter:

We understand that the Judicial Council is considering a proposal to establish a Southern Division of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, which would be located along the Montgomery/Prince George's County Line. The District of Columbia Bar's Section on Courts, Lawyers and the Administration of Justice respectfully urges the Judicial Council to support such an action.

When Congress established the District of Maryland, it stated in 28 U.S.C. § 100 that court would be held in Baltimore, Cumberland, Denton "and at a suitable site in Prince George's County not more than five miles from the boundary of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties." While magistrates regularly sit in Prince George's County (as well as other locations in Maryland), all of the judges on the District Court sit in Baltimore. As a result, civil litigants from this area who have cases in the District of Maryland, as well as criminal defendants who live in the Maryland suburbs, must travel to Baltimore, even though it would be far more convenient for them and their attorneys to litigate in the Montgomery/Prince George's Counties area. These two counties are home to nearly one-third of Maryland's citizens and are part of the larger metropolitan Washington area; thus, this issue is one of concern not only to the Maryland lawyers who practice in this region, but also to District of Columbia lawyers who are called upon to represent clients in Maryland as well as the District of Columbia.

We note that the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia has a Division which regularly sits in Alexandria, thus serving litigants and attorneys in the Virginia suburbs of this metropolitan area. We believe that creation of a new Division in southern Maryland would well serve the interests and convenience of Maryland litigants, as well as lawyers from southern Maryland and the District of Columbia. We support the efforts of the Montgomery and Prince George's County Bar Associations in this respect and urge the Judicial Council to take favorable action on this proposal.

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2 December 1987

The Honorable Harrison L. Winter
Chairman, Judicial Council of the
United States Court of Appeals
for the Fourth Circuit
United States Courthouse
Tenth and Main Streets
Richmond, VA 23219

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STANDARD DISCLAIMER

"The views expressed herein represent only those of the Section on Courts, Lawyers and the Administration of Justice of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors."

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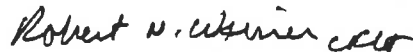
This statement has been approved by the undersigned and by the other members of our Section's Steering Committee, whose names appear at the top of this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and hope that they are helpful to the Judicial Council's deliberations.

Very truly yours,



Cornish F. Hitchcock
Co-chair



Robert N. Weiner
Co-chair