

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION****Task Force on Preservation  
of the Justice System**

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

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As co-chairs of the American Bar Association Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the purpose of this significant presidential initiative and to request your assistance with our efforts. ABA President Stephen N. Zack has convened this blue-ribbon Task Force to spotlight one of the most critical and evolving issues facing the legal profession today, the severe underfunding of our justice system. As a result of the economic crisis that has overcome our nation, courts are struggling to function properly and to provide access to justice for all. The Task Force will highlight the fiscal crisis that has resulted in budget slashes to courts nationwide.

The Task Force is composed of talented and distinguished attorneys and judges from across the country. We are working with the National Center for State Courts and related groups to gather data surrounding the court funding crisis and to determine the effects of the underfunded justice system.

We also welcome your valuable expertise and input relating to the work of this Task Force. If your organization has any reports, anecdotal evidence, surveys, or other relevant information pertaining to the underfunding of the justice system, we kindly request that you share them with our Task Force. With a unified effort, we can make a significant and positive impact in the way our justice system operates.

As part of this process, we will host a public hearing at the February 2011 ABA Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia to draw attention to this vital issue, and to receive testimony, comments and recommendations that will assist the Task Force in identifying the significant issues relating to the court funding crisis nationwide. Eventually, the Task Force will provide recommendations and a report of its findings to be considered by the ABA House of Delegates. For additional information, please find attached a recent *ABA Journal* article written by President Zack, "More Than a Budget Line Item."

If your organization is interested in supporting the work of the Task Force, please contact and/or send any relevant information to Konstantina Vagenas, ABA Justice Center Associate Director/Chief Counsel, at (312) 988-5105 or [vagenask@staff.abanet.org](mailto:vagenask@staff.abanet.org).

Sincerely,

**Theodore B. Olson, Co-Chair**

Partner  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

**David Boies, Co-chair**

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