ABA RESOLUTIONS ON FEDERAL JUDICIAL VACANCIES

August 2013

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports enactment of comprehensive legislation to authorize needed permanent and temporary federal judgeships, with particular focus on the federal districts with identified judicial emergencies so that affected courts may adjudicate all cases in a fair, just and timely manner.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the President of the United States to advance nominees for current vacancies for federal judicial positions promptly and the United States Senate to hear and vote on those nominations expeditiously, with particular focus on the vacancies in the federal districts with identified judicial emergencies so that affected courts may adjudicate all cases in a fair, just and timely manner.

August 2008

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the selection as federal judges of men and women of diverse backgrounds and experiences, whose professional competence, integrity, and judicial temperament, including commitment to equal justice under law, fully qualify them to serve in the federal judiciary;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the practice of federal judges providing advance notice of their intention to leave active federal judicial service in order to facilitate the timely nomination of individuals to vacant judgeships;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association encourages the senators in each state jointly and the delegates in each territory to appoint (in cooperation with others not of their party when appropriate) bipartisan commissions of lawyers and other leaders, reflecting the diversity of the profession and the community, to evaluate the qualifications of prospective district judges and to recommend possible nominees whom their senators or delegate might suggest for the President’s consideration;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association endorses the use of bipartisan commissions to consider and recommend prospective nominees for the United States Courts of Appeals;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association recommends that the President consult with Senate leaders of both parties and the home state senators or delegate in advance of submitting nominations;
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the President and Senate to promptly fill judicial vacancies and act expeditiously, especially with respect to nominees recommended by bipartisan commissions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution supersedes the August 1977 resolution (appended) concerning the judicial nomination and confirmation process.

August 2002

RESOLVED, that the prompt filling of existing judicial vacancies in the federal courts of the United States is essential for the efficient, responsible and effective administration of justice; and that undue delays in the nomination and confirmation of candidates for vacancies in the federal courts of the United States adversely affects such effective, responsible and timely administration of justice;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the following:
1. The President of the United States should promptly nominate candidates to fill vacancies in the federal courts of the United States.
2. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary should promptly act on nominees.
3. The Senate of the United States should promptly advise and consent to or reject the nominees

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges its Members and state, local, and territorial bar associations to encourage the President to make prompt appointments to fill federal judicial vacancies and to contact the appropriate members of the Senate to urge prompt hearings and votes on pending nominations for the federal courts of the United States.

February 1998

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the President of the United States promptly to advance nominees for current vacancies for federal judicial positions and the Senate of the United States to hear and vote on those nominations in an expeditious manner.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Bar Association urges its members and state, local and territorial bar associations to contact the President to urge prompt nominations to fill federal judicial vacancies and to contact the appropriate members of the Senate to urge prompt hearings and votes on the pending nominations for the United States federal courts.
October 1997

RESOLVED, That the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, which includes members of both political parties, urges the United States Senate promptly to hear and vote on pending nominations for United States District Courts and Courts of Appeal.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That such action is essential for the effective and efficient administration of justice in the United States.

February 1995

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association reaffirms its longstanding policies and urges the President of the United States to appoint minority lawyers of racial and ethnic diversity to all levels of the federal judiciary, including the United States Supreme Court.

February 1990

BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the President of the United States to expedite the appointment to vacancies existing in the United States judicial system and that the Senate take prompt action in considering confirmation of such nominees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the President and Senate to act expeditiously with respect to the District Court of the Virgin Islands where there is currently no sitting judge, other than those temporarily assigned from time to time by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

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