



Federal Bar Association

Atlanta Chapter

April 5, 2010

ATLANTA CHAPTER OF THE
FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT

Kevin A. Maxim
The Maxim Law Firm, P.C.
1718 Peachtree St., N.W.
Suite 599
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 924-4272
kmaxim@maximlawfirm.com

The Honorable C. Saxby Chambliss
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

PRESIDENT-ELECT

John R. Bielema, Jr.
Bryan Cave LLP
One Atlantic Center
1201 W Peachtree St, 14th FL
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 572-6600
jbielema@pogolaw.com

I write on behalf of the membership of this Chapter to request your assistance in urging the leadership of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary to devote prompt attention to the significant number of vacancies on the Federal bench, and to take swift action upon all pending judicial nominations. The sixteen thousand member Federal Bar Association represents the interests of practicing attorneys and Federal judges in the nation's Federal courts. We seek the fair and swift administration of justice for all litigants.

VICE PRESIDENT

Kerri A. Gildow
Rogers & Hardin LLP
229 Peachtree St. NE
2700 International Tower
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 420-4657
kgildow@rh-law.com

More than one-third of the current Federal Court vacancies have existed for at least 18 months, leaving considerable caseloads unattended and prompting their designation as "judicial emergencies" by the Judicial Conference, the policy-making body of the federal judiciary.

TREASURER

Robin H. Sangston
Cox Communications, Inc.
1400 Lake Hearn Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30319
(404) 843-5751
Robin.Sangston@cox.com

The membership of our Chapter is especially concerned by the vacancies in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. These vacancies have a direct and negative bearing on the prompt administration of justice by the Federal Courts in which our members practice, creating costly delay for litigants and the Courts themselves.

SECRETARY

Robert C. Khayat
King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3521
(404) 572-4709
RKhayat@KSLAW.com

The case for accelerated action on judicial vacancies is underscored by the need for pending legislation, supported by the Judicial Conference and the FBA, to add twelve new circuit judgeships and fifty-one new district judgeships. The case for these additional judgeships rested on the assumption that all existing judgeships were already filled and that no vacancies existed, and regrettably we are quite far from that baseline today.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

David A. Bain
Law Offices of David A. Bain, LLC
1230 Peachtree St. NE Ste 1050
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 724-9990
dbain@bain-law.com

Prompt and responsible action to fill the vacancies is necessary. The circumstances call for the President to promptly nominate qualified judicial candidates and the Senate to faithfully discharge its "advise and consent" powers under the U.S. Constitution. Prompt action by the President and the Senate will ultimately reduce the number of vacancies to a more acceptable level. We request your assistance in devoting attention to this pressing problem that affects the availability of justice in our Federal Courts.

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Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Respectfully yours,

Kevin A. Maxim
President - Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar
Association, Inc.

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