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Honorable Sarah Evans Barker
President, Federal Judges Association
United States District Court
46 East Ohio Street
Room 210
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Sarah --

Congratulations to you and your team. I think the new salary level is very reasonable considering all circumstances, including the fact that this is an election year. By the way, 1989 is a reasonable base or starting point because the judicial branch, including FJA, considered and acknowledged that the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 produced a very fair salary base going forward.

Good riddance to Section 140. FJA will be saved the task of having it found unconstitutional again.

The new rule of 84 and the other conditions also seem reasonable, although the pension reduction based on outside earnings probably constitutes a forbidden "diminishment in compensation." (I assume no one will quibble about this provision, at least -- not now.)

Senate agreement and quick passage should provide a happy holiday to the Third Branch.

Admiringly yours,



Kevin M. Forde

KMF/kb