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May 12, 2008

**TO: ALL ARTICLE III JUDGES OF THE TENTH CIRCUIT**

**RE: FJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – May 4-5, 2008**

Dear Colleagues:

Wiley Daniel, Tim Tymkovich, and I have recently returned from the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association held in Washington May 4 and 5, 2008. As you might expect, most discussions were focused upon or related to the pending Pay Restoration bills.

As our President, Sarah Barker, set out in her letter of May 7, 2008, FJA is participating in a carefully coordinated, measured effort to achieve passage of the pay increase in strategic partnership with the Judicial Conference (led by the Chief Justice), the AOUSC, and others. A pay increase has been endorsed by House and Senate leadership and by both Judiciary Committees. Sarah and everyone involved remain cautiously optimistic. In other words, the message is don't spend the money yet, but also don't abandon hope or give in to frustration.

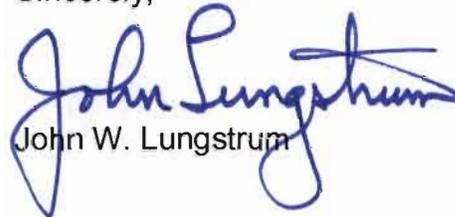
The strategy being followed is one of informed and watchful restraint. We have reached a place in the process where uncoordinated, individual efforts with members may do more harm than good. I know that many of us are frustrated and, by our personalities, inclined to take additional action. But, we have come further than we have in a long time and we believe it remains prudent to defer to the judgment of the Chief Justice, the Conference, Director Jim Duff, and the top leadership of the FJA.

Of course, judges' pay is not the only concern of the FJA. The broader concept of the preservation of the independence of the Article III Judiciary remains the bedrock and ultimate goal of our organization. We spent considerable time on other topics than pay at the Board meeting, and Wiley, Tim or I would be happy to provide more details if you want to contact one of us before we are together at the Tenth Circuit Judicial Conference.

One more thing. Please help us expand the membership from its present number of over 900 judges to the target of 1,000. As always, the payment of the modest annual dues by salary allotment is the surest and safest way to support this organization. So, if there are judges on your court who do not yet belong, let's try to get them in the fold.

We look forward to seeing most of you at the Broadmoor in September. Hopefully, it will be a time to celebrate. And please mark your calendars for the Seventh Quadrennial Conference at the FJA to be held in D.C. May 23-25, 2010. It will be a gala affair, under the Presidency of our own Wiley Daniel.

Sincerely,



John W. Lungstrum

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