

STATEMENT OF HON. JEREMY D. FOGEL, DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER  
BEFORE THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

March 24, 2015

Chairman Boozman, Senator Coons, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeremy Fogel. I have been a United States District Judge in the Northern District of California since 1998 and the Director of the Federal Judicial Center since October 2011. I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this statement in support of our 2016 appropriations request. Because our request is modest, this statement is brief. The Center's Board, which the Chief Justice chairs and on which the Director of the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts serves, approved this request in October 2014.

Our request for 2016 is \$27,679,000--an increase of \$720,000 (or 2.7%) above our fiscal year 2015 appropriations level (\$26,959,000). The \$720,000 increase is entirely for standard adjustments to our 2015 base. We are not requesting any funds for program growth or enhancements.

I would like to provide you with a brief description of the Center and its activities. I hope to convey to you the important contribution that the Center makes to the effective and efficient functioning of the federal courts.

#### The Center's Contribution to the Courts

Speaking not only as the Center's director but also as a judge, I can attest to the importance of the Center to the courts and the people who work in them. The Center's statutory mission is to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in the federal courts. We carry out our mission through educational programs for judges to help them dispose of complex litigation effectively and fairly, and for court managers and staff to help them operate efficiently and to maintain services to the public, including supervision of federal criminal defendants and offenders. Our independent, impartial, empirical research on federal litigation and judicial administration contributes directly to changes in

procedures and policies that make litigation and court operations more user-friendly and efficient.

### Education and Training

Center education programs are vital to judges and court staff. Orientation programs enable new judges to assume their responsibilities quickly. Continuing education programs educate judges on topics ranging from case-management techniques to new statutes and case law and emerging trends and practices.

Court staff, who play a critical role in supporting judges and ensuring the efficient operation of the courts, rely on the Center for educational programs and materials that help them do their jobs well. Our multi-year leadership programs help court employees do their current jobs even better and prepare them for positions of greater responsibility.

The need for education and training remains great. Educating judges about new legal developments, ethical requirements and effective case management practices always has been and will continue to be necessary. Judges and court managers also seek additional education in effective court management to help address the challenging fiscal climate, use technology effectively and maintain a productive workforce.

The Center delivers education through in-person programs and a variety of media to provide education and information to judges and staff efficiently. The delivery tools we use include hard-copy publications, and an array of technologies, including our internal and external web sites, web applications, teleconferencing, web-conferencing, and streaming video. All these delivery means help us meet the diverse needs of a diverse population of judges, managers, and staff in a cost-effective way.

### Center Research

The courts, and particularly the Judicial Conference of the United States, as well as Congress and the public, are regular consumers of the Center's research projects. They rely on the Center for thorough, unbiased, well-documented research. Most of the approximately fifty major research projects under way in 2015 were requested

by the Judicial Conference and its committees. The Center's research not only helps judges decide cases efficiently and fairly but also helps the judiciary and Congress make better-informed decisions about policies and procedures affecting the courts.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our request. I hope that the brevity of this statement does not minimize in any way the vital contribution the Center makes to support the work of the federal courts. I respectfully urge you to provide the Center with the modest 2.7% increase --- simply a current services funding level --- it needs in 2016. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.