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May 29, 1998

Commission of Structural Alternatives
for the Federal Courts of Appeals
Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Bldg.
1 Columbus Circle N.E.
Washington D.C. 20544

Dear Commission Members:

This letter is written on behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and its section on appellate practice.

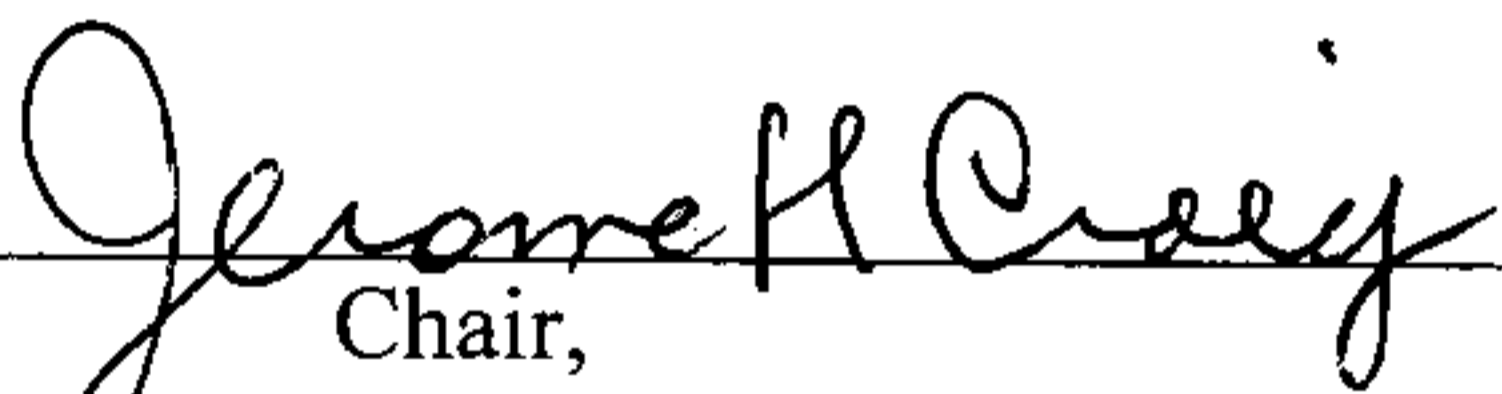
The Commission is familiar with the testimony and written submissions of Chief Judge Hug and Senior Judge Wallace. Our Association supports the view of Judges Hug and Wallace.

There is no compelling reason to divide the Ninth Circuit into one or more smaller circuits. Indeed, there is very little evidence to suggest that the Circuit should be divided. On the other hand, for the reasons set forth in the submissions of Judges Hug and Wallace, any division could have a substantial adverse impact on the administration of justice in the federal judicial system.

While the debate on the size of federal courts of appeals will undoubtedly consume much time and energy of future generations of lawyers and scholars, our Association is confident that this Commission will put politics aside, issue its recommendations based upon the “basic principles” suggested by Judges Hug and Wallace and will close the debate, at least for the time being, on circuit division.

Respectfully submitted,

Federal Bar Association,
Los Angeles Chapter and its
Appellate Practice Section

By 
Chair,
Appellate Practice Section, Los Angeles
Chapter Federal Bar Association