

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
EIGHTH CIRCUIT

PASCO M. BOWMAN  
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE  
619 U.S. COURTHOUSE  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106  
1918: 426-3289

March 23, 1998

Professor Daniel Meador  
University of Virginia Law School  
580 Massie Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Re: Commission on Structural Alternatives for the  
Federal Courts of Appeals

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your phone call the other day and for the follow-up fax re the public hearings. I have looked at the dates of the scheduled public hearings and, unfortunately, none of them will work for me. My general thoughts about structural alternatives, which I offer for your consideration, are as follows:

- 1) I do not believe that any change in the present geographical boundaries of the Eighth Circuit would be advisable. I don't know of any problems or any movement among members of the bar that would support such a change.
- 2) Concerning other possible structural changes, I am not in favor of altering the existing system of generalist courts of appeals. I believe the system is a good one and I would be inclined to oppose any movement towards creation of new specialized courts.
- 3) I do not believe there is a need for a new appellate level between the Supreme Court and the existing courts of appeals. The Supreme Court appears to have ample capacity to straighten out conflicts among the circuits.
- 4) I believe that my Court is working well, and with increasing efficiency. Basically, I believe we are in a healthy condition, and that we certainly are not broken and not in need of fixing.

I hope you and Jan are well. I am looking forward to getting back to Charlottesville sometime and touring the new law school complex, which I understand is quite spectacular.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pasco M. Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a distinct "M".

Pasco M. Bowman

PMB:aw