



## THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Rep. Adam B. Schiff, Co-Chair

Rep. Judy Biggert, Co-Chair

January 27, 2004

### *JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON THE JUDICIAL BRANCH*

Dear Colleague:

Earlier this month, Chief Justice William Rehnquist released his 2003 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary. In this year's report, the Chief Justice chose to focus on the relationship between the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch and what he believes was a breakdown last year of the traditional interchange between the Congress and the Judiciary.

While the two branches certainly have distinct roles, we agree with Chief Justice Rehnquist that consultation with the Judiciary can only improve both the process and the product given that each branch also possesses unique perspectives. As Members of the House of Representatives with a strong interest in improving the relationship between the legislative and judicial branches, we recently formed a congressional caucus dedicated to this goal.

The bipartisan **Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch** will be dedicated to working with the judicial branch on issues that come before Congress that directly impact the Judiciary, including addressing the need for additional judgeships, responding to judicial vacancies, working cooperatively on sentencing guideline reforms, assisting with judicial salary issues, and securing funding for additional courthouses and other priority projects.

The following are examples of activities the **Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch** will host:

- Staff and member briefings and forums on significant issues related to the judicial branch;
- Meetings with Supreme Court Justices, state court judges, and other members of the Judiciary;
- Visits to the Judicial Conference and various state judicial associations.

Of course, we also plan to work in close coordination with the committees of jurisdiction in the House on related hearings and legislation.

You can demonstrate your support for our efforts to promote a healthy relationship between the two branches by joining the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch. To join, please contact Phil Tahtakran of Rep. Schiff's office at 5-4176 or Melissa Guido in Rep. Biggert's office at 5-3515.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

  
ADAM B. SCHIFF  
Member of Congress

  
JUDY BIGGERT  
Member of Congress