

UNITED STATES COURTS OF APPEALS

March 11, 2002

PRESS RELEASE

Federal Appellate Judges Adopt a New Plan for Law Clerk Hiring

Federal appellate judges have voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new Plan for Law Clerk Hiring. The Plan includes: (1) a moratorium on law clerk hiring during the Fall of 2002, (2) an arrangement ensuring that the hiring of law clerks will not be done earlier than the Fall of the third year of law school, and (3) an agreement that the focus of law clerk hiring will be on third year law students and law graduates.

The precise terms of the new law clerk hiring Plan are set forth in the attached "Summary," and the history leading to the Plan's adoption appears in the appended "Background" statement. Over two-hundred federal appellate judges considered the Plan. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the judges either supported the Plan or indicated that they would not oppose it. Thus, the "substantial consensus" requirement that was needed to put the Plan into operation was easily satisfied.

Numerous District Court judges, the President of the American Law Deans Association, and the Executive Director of the Association of American Law Schools, along with Deans from numerous law schools around the country, have supported the Plan.

Notices have been sent to the Dean of every law school registered with the Association of American Law Schools, as well as to law school placement directors. Law students and law graduates will be advised that, under the Plan, the only law clerk hiring that will be done during the Fall of 2002 will be by judges who are considering third year students or law graduates for clerkship positions during the 2003-2004 term. Pursuant to the Plan, law clerk hiring for the 2004-2005 term will be done during the Fall of 2003.

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Attachments