



# JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
*Presiding*

HONORABLE ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF  
*Secretary*

January 11, 2022

Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am writing on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States (“Conference”) regarding H.R. 5844, the Open Courts Act of 2021, which would, among other things, require dramatic changes to the judiciary’s backbone case management system. We believe it is important that both House and Senate leadership stay informed about and remain engaged with this legislation if it moves further through the Congress.

We very much appreciate your leadership in the previous Congress which led to robust discussions between the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and House staff on the bill then being considered by the House. Those discussions resulted in significant changes to the bill. With a new version of the Open Courts Act having been introduced this Congress, we seek to resume a dialogue between members of the House – who are seeking to address important policy concerns – and the Judicial Branch, which will bear the burden of implementing any legislation that is enacted and which is committed to improving public access to court electronic records. To that end, the Judiciary is developing a modern case management system. Our continued dialogue will help ensure that we achieve our common goals.

We have learned a great deal in the last year. Based on that new information, our position on many aspects of the Open Courts Act has evolved. However, we continue to have significant policy differences to address with the current bill’s sponsors.

Attached is a letter to Chairman Hank Johnson, in which we review developments since the House last acted on the Open Courts Act, detail the remaining matters of concern, and renew our request for meaningful, two-way dialogue to further address those concerns. We are very appreciative of his interest in the Judiciary. As necessary, we hope you will assist in our efforts to engage with the Judiciary Committee and carefully consider our concerns about the current draft of the legislation.

Honorable Steny Hoyer

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If we may be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us through our Office of Legislative Affairs, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, at 202-502-1700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roslynn R. Mauskopf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roslynn R. Mauskopf  
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Honorable Jim Jordan  
Honorable Hank Johnson  
Honorable Darrell Issa