



January 16, 2024

The Honorable Roslynn R. Mauskopf
Judicial Conference Secretary
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
One Columbus Circle, NE
Washington, D.C. 20544

Sent via email

Dear Judge Mauskopf:

Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”) respectfully requests that the Judicial Conference immediately publish the Report of the Proceedings (“Report”) from their September 12, 2023 meeting. The Judicial Conference’s delay in releasing the Report is unusual, as previous years’ September Reports have typically been published on the Judicial Conference website in December of that year.

The release of this specific Report is needed because of public interest in the Financial Disclosure Committee’s response to requests to refer Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Attorney General for violating financial disclosure laws. On April 11, 2023, CLC submitted evidence of reasonable cause to believe that Justice Thomas willfully failed to report gifts he received for over twenty years.¹ The evidence was referred to the Judicial Conference’s Financial Disclosure Committee,² which was required to report on the committee’s activities to the full Judicial Conference during the September 2023 meeting.³

¹ Campaign Legal Center Letter to Judicial Conference Regarding Justice Thomas (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://campaignlegal.org/document/clc-letter-judicial-conference-regarding-justice-thomas>.

² Judicial Conference Letter to Campaign Legal Center Regarding Justice Thomas Letter (Apr. 18, 2023) (stating that the Secretary of the Judicial Conference forwarded CLC’s letter to the Committee on Financial Disclosure).

³ See 28 U.S.C. §331 (requiring the Judicial Conference to create a report of the proceedings of each meeting of the Judicial Conference).

The Judicial Conference has stated that it will “ensure timely action is taken on credible allegations of misconduct according to established procedures.”⁴ Yet when presented with substantial evidence of a Justice’s failure to comply with disclosure requirements, the Judicial Conference has not complied with its own established disclosure procedures. Whether or not a final decision has been made in the Justice Thomas matter, the public has a right to know that the Judicial Conference is responsibly considering the matter and not withholding information.

For these reasons, we ask the Judicial Conference to follow its normal practice and immediately publish the Report.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____

Kedric L. Payne

Vice President, General Counsel and
Senior Director, Ethics

_____/s/_____

Danielle Caputo

Legal Counsel, Ethics

⁴ *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary*, Judicial Conference of the United States, 10 (2020), https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/federaljudiciary_strategicplan2020.pdf.