



June 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr.
Judicial Conference Secretary
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
One Columbus Circle, NE
Washington, D.C. 20544

Sent via email

Dear Judge Conrad:

Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”) respectfully requests that the Judicial Conference immediately publish the Report of the Proceedings (“Report”) from their March 2024 meeting. The Judicial Conference indicated in the September 2023 Report that the Committee on Financial Disclosure was conducting an “ongoing review of public written allegations of errors or omissions in a filer’s financial disclosure reports.” Given the timing of this review, the filer in question appears to be Justice Clarence Thomas. It is critical for the public’s trust in our democratic institutions that Supreme Court justices are held to the ethical standards they are required to meet under the law, which is why releasing an update on the Financial Disclosure Committee’s investigation in the March 2024 Report is necessary.

Specifically, there is significant public interest in whether the Financial Disclosure Committee refers Justice 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 In February 2024, in anticipation of the Judicial Conference’s March 2024 meeting, CLC submitted additional information concerning Justice Thomas’ alleged violations of the Ethics in Government Act.²

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 Campaign Legal Center Supplemental Letter to Judicial Conference Regarding Justice Thomas (Jan. 16, 2024), <https://campaignlegal.org/document/clc-supplemental-letter-judicial-conference-about-justice-thomass-unreported-gifts>.

The Judicial Conference has stated that it will “ensure timely action is taken on credible allegations of misconduct according to established procedures.”³ Yet when presented with substantial evidence from multiple sources of a justice’s failure to comply with disclosure requirements, the Judicial Conference has not taken action in over a year. 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 immediately publish the Report.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____

Kedric L. Payne

Vice President, General Counsel and
Senior Director, Ethics

_____/s/_____

Danielle Caputo

Legal Counsel, Ethics

³ *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary*, Judicial Conference of the United States, 10 (2020), https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/federaljudiciary_strategicplan2020.pdf.