

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

ALEX KOZINSKI
Chief Judge

(626) 229-7140
FAX: 229-7444

August 3, 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

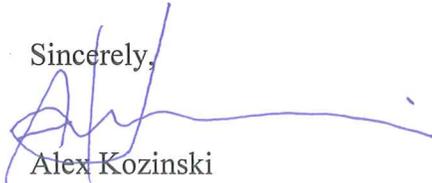
Dear Senators Grassley and Sessions:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 13, 2012, regarding this year's Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Maui, Hawaii. As was noted in our earlier letter to you, the Ninth Circuit entered into a contract for the 2012 conference in 2010. At that time, the host hotel agreed to reserve a very large block of rooms at a guaranteed room rate, foregoing other sales opportunities that might arise in the intervening two years. Cancelling the conference at this late date would result in enormous penalties being paid to the hotel for lost business. In addition, individual conferees, many of whom were encouraged to purchase non-refundable airline tickets to help reduce travel costs, also would be penalized.

We continue to believe in the importance of the conference in furthering the education of the bench and bar, and in advancing circuit governance. Much time and effort has gone into developing an outstanding program, which focuses on timely and relevant issues and features speakers and panelists who are preeminent in their fields. Similarly, our business meetings are well organized and well attended, providing the opportunity for judges and lawyers to have a voice in the administration of justice. Nonetheless, we are very conscious of the present budget constraints and are doing our best to minimize expenses. While it is too late to change course this year, the Ninth Circuit has moved to reschedule its 2013 conference to 2014. And we will continue to manage future events in the most cost-effective manner possible. As requested, enclosed please find the hotel contracts for 2008 through 2012.

In hindsight, had we foreseen the nation's current fiscal problems, we may have chosen a different site for this year's conference. But as stated earlier, cancelling contracts at this late date is just not feasible, and we remain convinced that the conference will improve the administration of justice within the circuit as 28 U.S.C. § 333 envisions.

Sincerely,



Alex Kozinski

AK/CC/cc:dms
Enclosures

cc: Honorable Patrick Leahy
Honorable Kent Conrad
Honorable Thomas F. Hogan