



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF MICHIGAN

DAVID J. ALLEN  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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December 2, 2010

Senator Carl Levin, United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Senator Debbie Stabenow, United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Dear Senators Levin and Stabenow,

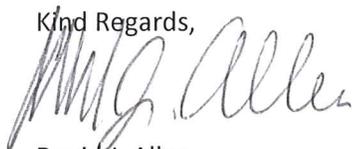
By way of this correspondence, I am respectfully requesting that you notify President Obama that I am no longer interested in nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. While I appreciate and am honored by your joint recommendation to the President for this position, the almost two year delay (with the prospect of further delay in a much changed Congress come January) in the process has been long enough. I am ready to get back to my personal life and respected state court career, both of which have been on hold far too long.

I am honored to have been fully vetted and recommended to you by your distinguished, bipartisan merit-selection committee. I am humbled that after a thorough background analysis by the American Bar Association, I was rated favorably for lifetime appointment by my peers. Finally, to have two of the most well respected U.S. Senators recommend me to the President for nomination is a highlight of my judicial career.

Unfortunately, the system of Presidential and Senate nomination and confirmation of qualified candidates to the federal bench is broken. As a result, the number of judicial vacancies is at an all time high. Today, one of every eight federal judicial seats is vacant, many for years on end. Rest assured my experience is shared by many good men and women across the country. Beyond my own experience, it is evident that the caliber of future candidates to the federal bench will decline in the face of such a daunting and time consuming process. Sadly, a strong and independent judiciary, the backbone of our country, is at risk.

Aristotle reminds us that our vocations are found where our talents and the needs of the world collide. For me, that intersection is proudly at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. I have never been deluded into thinking that true purpose comes from what one does for a living. It does not come disguised as a title or coveted position. Rather, true purpose comes from the manner in which people carry out their duties and in so doing bestow dignity upon those they have the privilege to serve. It is less about **where** you work and more about **how** you live and work. True purpose is found in how one cares for their family, friends and community. By these measures, I leave this process with my head held high.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "A".

David J. Allen