



# Federal Judges Association

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## Statement of the Federal Judges Association, the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Concerning the Afghan Judiciary

The Federal Judges Association, the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, and National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges join with many other national, state, and local judges and bar associations to call attention to the urgent and critical circumstances faced by the Afghan judiciary. We recognize and support the call of these brave judges for protection. Their work has been essential to the establishment of a fair and capable national judiciary, and to protecting the rule of law. The threat to women judges is particularly acute. We further recognize that all Afghan people may be at risk.

We also call upon the organized bar and its leaders to move promptly to answer the call for pro bono legal assistance for Afghan judges and their families. To do otherwise will not only harm these judges, but also threaten the independence and safety of judges and judiciaries worldwide.

As members of the federal judiciary, we understand the importance of an independent judiciary to a democratic society. Our organizations are independent, voluntary associations comprising the vast majority of federal judges. The FJA is made up of active, senior, and past United States circuit and district judges, the FMJA is comprised of active, retired, and recalled United States magistrate judges, and the NCBJ is comprised of active, recalled, and retired United States bankruptcy judges.

Hon. Richard Clifton  
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