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December 14, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
290 Russell Senate Offc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Offc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
331 Hart Senate Offc. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2056 Rayburn House Offc. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graham, Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Ranking Member Jordan:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to support passage of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020,[1] or similar legislation, to protect the lives and safety of members of the federal judiciary and their families. Such legislation has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, and the recent increase in threats against judicial personnel makes its passage urgent.

The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act honors the memory of the son of Judge Esther Salas of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Daniel was tragically killed on July 19, 2020, when an armed assailant—a deranged attorney who had appeared in a case before Judge Salas—appeared at her home and opened fire. Daniel was only 20. Judge Salas's husband was also shot in the attack.[2]

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[1] S. 4711, 116th Cong. (2020); H.R. 8591, 116th Cong. (2020).
[2] *See* Neil Vigdor, Aimee Ortiz & Kevin Armstrong, *Husband and Son of a Federal Judge Are Shot in New Jersey*, N.Y. Times (July 19, 2020), https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/19/nyregion/shooting-nj-judge-esther-salas.html; Nicole Hong, William K. Rashbaum & Mihir Zaveri, *'Anti-Feminist' Lawyer Is Suspect in Killing of Son of Federal Judge in N.J.*, N.Y. Times (July 20, 2020; updated July 22, 2020), https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/20/nyregion/esther-salas.html.

Unfortunately, Daniel is only the most recent victim of a targeted attack on a federal judge. Four federal judges have been murdered since 1979—District Judge John Wood, District Judge Richard Daronco, Circuit Judge Robert Vance, and District Judge John Roll. And in 2005, two family members of District Judge Joan Lefkow were murdered in a targeted attack on the judge's home.[3]

Threats to members of the judiciary are on the rise. Incidents, inappropriate communications, and threats against federal judges and other persons protected by the U.S. Marshals Service have risen steadily in recent years, from 2,357 in FY2016 to 4,449 in FY2019.[4] Increasingly, public servants are being threatened with physical violence and death simply for carrying out their duties in accordance with the oath they swore to uphold the Constitution.

In light of these escalating threats, we call for the passage of legislation to better protect judges' personally identifiable information. The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, in particular, would, among other initiatives: protect judges and their families by requiring federal agencies to maintain the confidentiality of judges' personally identifiable information upon request; authorize funding for state and local governments to adopt similar measures; prohibit data brokers from selling, licensing, trading, purchasing, or otherwise providing or making available for consideration judges' personally identifiable information; and create an enforceable mechanism for judges and their immediate family members to secure removal of their personally identifiable information from the Internet.

New Jersey recently enacted similar legislation on the state level—"Daniel's Law"—and other states have comparable laws on the books.[5] Only federal legislation, however, would protect federal judges and their families wherever they reside and ensure uniform enforcement nationwide. In supporting such legislation at the federal level, we add our voices to those of the Judicial Conference of the United States,[6] the American Bar Association,[7] and others.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please let us know whether any additional information from our offices would be useful to you as the Congress considers this important topic.

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[3] Press Release, U.S. Courts, Congress Urged to Adopt Judicial Security Measures (Sept. 9, 2020), https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2020/09/09/congress-urged-adopt-judicial-security-measures.
[4] U.S. Marshals Service, FY 2019 Annual Report 24 fig.8 (June 2020), https://www.usmarshals.gov/foia/annual-report-2019.pdf.
[5] N.J. P.L.2020, c.125 (signed Nov. 20, 2020); *see also* Cal. Gov. Code 6254.21; 705 ILCS 90/1-1 to 90/4-99; Tex. Gov. Code § 552.117; Wash. Rev. Code 4.24.680.
[6] Press Release, U.S. Courts, Congress Urged to Adopt Judicial Security Measures (Sept. 9, 2020), https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2020/09/09/congress-urged-adopt-judicial-security-measures.
[7] Am. Bar Ass'n, Judicial Security Needs Improvement (Oct. 28, 2020), https://www.americanbar.org/advocacy/governmental_legislative_work/publications/washingtonletter/october-2020-wl/judicial-security-wl1020/.

Sincerely,



Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General



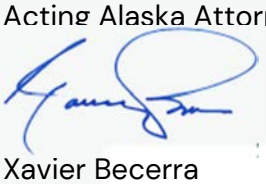
Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



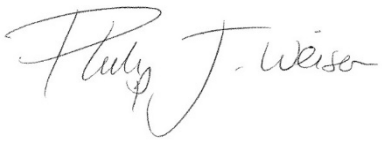
Clyde "Ed" Sniffen, Jr.
Acting Alaska Attorney General



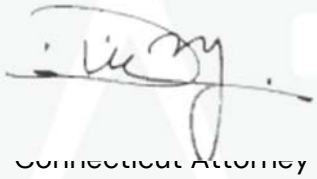
American Samoa Attorney General



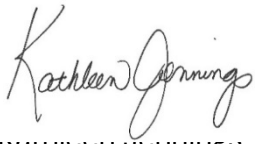
Xavier Becerra
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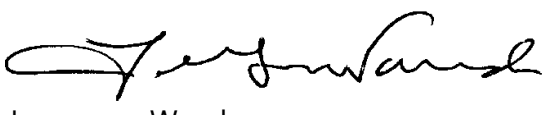
Christopher M. Carr
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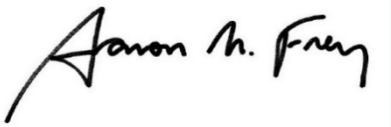


Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General

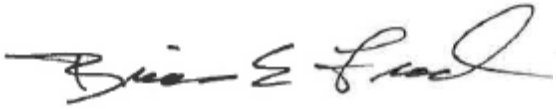




Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



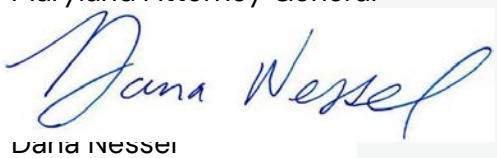
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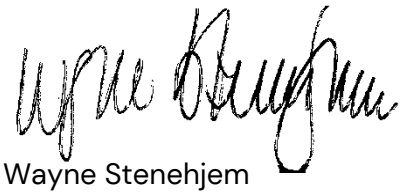
Hector Balderas
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Letitia James
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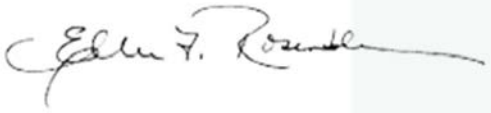
Edward Manibusan
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General



Ohio Attorney General

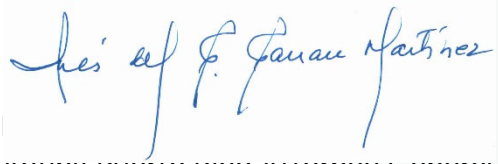


Oklahoma Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum
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Acting Puerto Rico Attorney General



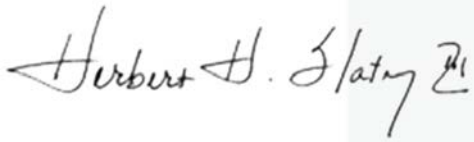
Peter F. Neronha



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



South Dakota Attorney General



Tennessee Attorney General



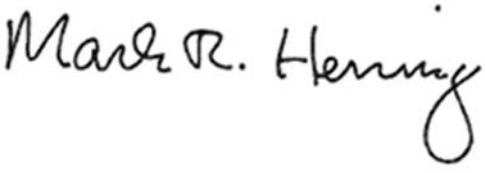
Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General

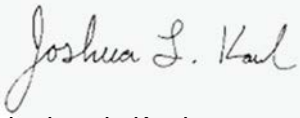


Sean Reyes
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Vermont Attorney General





Joshua L. Kaul
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Wyoming Attorney General