

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2013

David Harless, President  
Virginia State Bar  
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500  
Richmond, VA 23219-2800

Dear David:

We write to seek input from the Virginia State Bar with respect to an upcoming judicial vacancy.

Judge James Spencer recently announced he intends to transition to senior status in March 2014. We intend to recommend strong candidates for President Obama's consideration to fill this vacancy, and hope to make these recommendations by August.

In the past, the Virginia State Bar (VSB) has played an important role in judicial nominations and you can help us assure that Judge Spencer's successor on the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia continues his exemplary public service.

We would appreciate if the VSB could solicit expressions of interest, interview candidates, undertake appropriate research and make recommendations to our offices no later than July 22, 2013. In addition, the VSB has often facilitated other statewide bar associations in forwarding their own recommendations. Your help in that regard would also be valuable.

We are proud of Virginia's federal judiciary and look forward to working with you to maintain the high quality of the Eastern District bench.

Thank you for your assistance with this important process.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Warner

  
Tim Kaine