

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS

HONORABLE ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

August 16, 2023

Mr. Noah Bookbinder via Gabriela Cantor President and Chief Executive Officer Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington gcantor@citizensforethics.org

Dear Mr. Bookbinder:

This letter responds to your inquiry of June 30, 2023, about the availability of judges' financial disclosure reports in the judiciary's online database, which has been forwarded to the Committee on Financial Disclosure of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) is committed to meeting the objectives of transparency and public access in the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended. The AO processes reports filed with the Committee on Financial Disclosure as quickly as possible, while striving to ensure that reports that are released are complete and accurate and, in accordance with regulation, do not contain information that could endanger the filer or the filer's family.

The Courthouse Ethics in Transparency Act (CETA) now requires that judicial officers, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges submit periodic reports for certain securities transactions which must be made available along with other financial disclosure reports in an online searchable database.

The AO established the online database on time and has been diligently and continuously processing and uploading judges' annual and periodic transaction reports to the database. The processing of these new periodic transaction reports and the establishment of the online database has resulted in significant additional workload for the AO. In an effort to further improve public access to financial disclosure reports, the AO has requested and received supplemental funding and is in the process of increasing

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staff support for CETA's new requirements. We expect these actions will result in more timely public access to judges' financial disclosure reports.

We appreciate your acknowledgement that the AO does seek to "uphold the highest standards in the judicial system" and hope the explanation above is informative.

Sincerely,

Rocky R. Mauchoff

Roslynn R. Mauskopf Director