



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
ATTORNEYS GENERAL

PRESIDENT

Karl A. Racine

District of Columbia
Attorney General

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Tom Miller

Iowa
Attorney General

VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Stein

North Carolina
Attorney General

IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT

Tim Fox

Montana
Attorney General

Chris Toth

Executive Director

1850 M Street NW
12th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-326-6000
www.naag.org

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 Aderl 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 Aderl 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

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.

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



Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



Mitzie Jessop Taase
American Samoa Attorney General



Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General



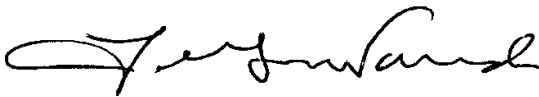
Kathleen Jennings
Delaware Attorney General



Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General



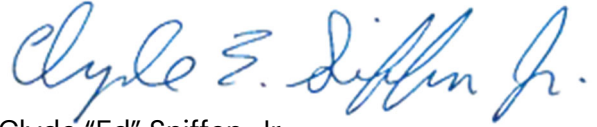
Leevin Taitano Camacho
Guam Attorney General




Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



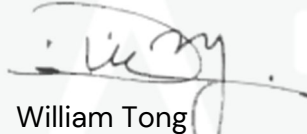
Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General



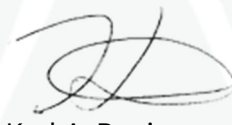
Clyde "Ed" Sniffen, Jr.
Acting Alaska Attorney General



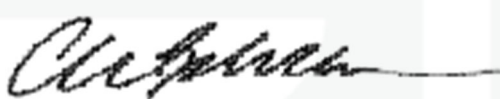
Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General



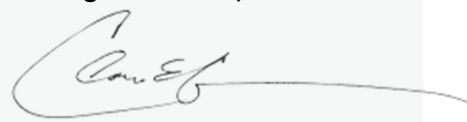
William Tong
Connecticut Attorney General



Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



Clare E. Connors
Hawaii Attorney General



Kwame Raoul
Illinois Attorney General



Curtis T. Hill, Jr.
Indiana Attorney General



Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General



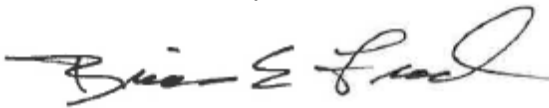
Daniel Cameron
Kentucky Attorney General



Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



Aaron M. Frey
Maine Attorney General



Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General




Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General



Dana Nessel
Michigan Attorney General



Keith Ellison
Minnesota Attorney General



Lynn Fitch
Mississippi Attorney General



Tim Fox
Montana Attorney General



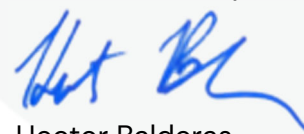
Douglas Peterson
Nebraska Attorney General



Aaron D. Ford
Nevada Attorney General



Gordon MacDonald
New Hampshire Attorney General



Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



Letitia James
New York Attorney General



Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



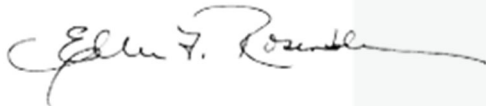
Edward Manibusan
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General



Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General



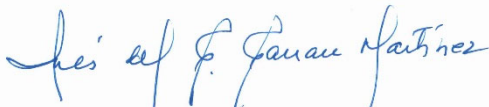
Mike Hunter
Oklahoma Attorney General



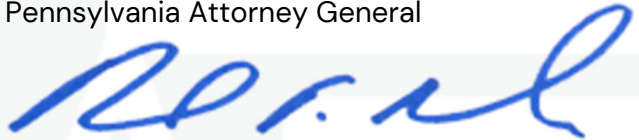
Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Inés del C. Carrau-Martínez
Acting Puerto Rico Attorney General



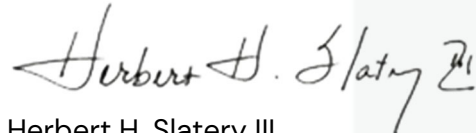
Peter F. Neronha
Rhode Island Attorney General



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Jason R. Ravensborg
South Dakota Attorney General



Herbert H. Slatery III
Tennessee Attorney General



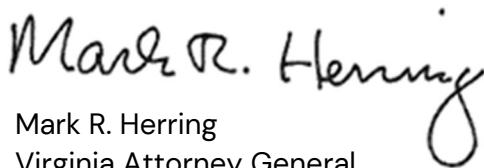
Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General



Sean Reyes
Utah Attorney General



T.J. Donovan
Vermont Attorney General



Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General



Joshua L. Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General



Bridget Hill
Wyoming Attorney General