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August 18, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 276

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

The State of California is among the jurisdictions that make up the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, along with Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Pending legislative proposals would divide the Ninth Circuit and create a new Twelfth Circuit. Such a division would be costly, inefficient and harm the administration of justice. A division of the Ninth Circuit would undermine the consistent body of law that has developed in the West. Thirty-four judges of the Ninth Circuit have signed a letter expressing their opposition to the proposed legislation to split the Ninth Circuit. The San Diego County Bar Association supports the current constitution of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and strongly opposes any effort to split the circuit.

Sincerely,

Loren G. Freestone, Esq.  
President, San Diego County Bar Association

