June 4, 1998

Commission on Structural Alternatives for Federal Courts of Appeals
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Ninth Circuit Lawyers Representatives for the District of Idaho have endeavored to gain an understanding of the ramifications of a division of the Ninth Circuit and to discuss the pros and cons of a restructuring program with bar leaders throughout the state of Idaho, particularly those who practice actively before the Federal Courts. Our Lawyer Representatives have also listened to discussions and presentations by the federal trial and appellate court judges in our state. We have read presentations by other federal judges in the Ninth Circuit who advocate maintaining the Ninth Circuit as it is presently composed.

While we share a certain reverence for the historical Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, we have become persuaded that the time has come for a change that would allow for a more manageable and long-term functional circuit court for our district. We believe that splitting the Ninth Circuit would be a benefit to the Bar, litigants and citizens in general.

Thank you for the time you are devoting to this effort.

Very truly yours,

Ninth Circuit Lawyers Representatives, District of Idaho

TOC:dd

cc: Stephen S. Trott
    Thomas G. Nelson
    Edward J. Lodge
    B. Lynn Winmill
    Mikel H. Williams
    Larry M. Boyle
    Cameron S. Burke, Clerk