

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS RELATING TO THE
REAPPOINTMENT OF
JOSEPH LAWS, FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

The Court of Appeals for the First Circuit invites and encourages comments regarding the reappointment of Mr. Joseph Laws, the Federal Public Defender for the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, as required by regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Mr. Laws is seeking reappointment to a new four-year term. His present term expires on April 18, 2009. The Court of Appeals has appointed a Committee to consider the reappointment of Mr. Laws. The Committee has as members one First Circuit Court of Appeals judge, two district court judges, a knowledgeable federal public defender, a court administrator, and two prominent, private criminal defense attorneys knowledgeable in federal criminal defense issues.

Judicial Conference Regulations provide that the Committee should "assess the quality of representation, level of commitment and service to clients, and administrative efficiency of the Federal Public Defender Office prior to deciding whether the reappointment of an incumbent Federal Public Defender is warranted. In this process, it should solicit the views of those in a position to evaluate the performance of the Federal Public Defender as well as the quality of the services provided by the Federal Public Defender organization."

The Committee also strongly encourages the submission of any information regarding Mr. Laws' response to inquiries for assistance from members of the defense bar and the general level of education and training provided to the staff of the Federal Public Defender's Office, to the CJA panel, and to defender organizations such as the Puerto Rico Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

All comments will be kept confidential and should be directed to: Susan Goldberg, Office of the Circuit Executive, John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 3700, Boston, MA 02210. Comments must be received no later than August 8, 2008.