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# NBA

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July 3, 1980

Robert L. Harris
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The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
2226 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Judge Earl Gilliam's Confirmation Vote

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The National Bar Association is gravely concerned about the Judiciary Committee's failure to vote on the confirmation of Judge Earl Gilliam of San Diego, to become a Federal judge in the Southern District of California. As you know, the Southern District of California has always been segregated, and if Judge Gilliam, a highly qualified and respected Superior Court judge in San Diego, is not confirmed, segregation will continue in the Federal courts in San Diego.

It is most unfortunate that there still exist in this nation those misguided people who will delay and seek to prevent the desegregation of the court system of this nation. As Black lawyers, we are all too familiar with the tactics employed to keep Blacks from sitting on the courts of this nation. For the past 55 years, the NBA has been dedicated to remedying the injustices within the justice system itself. We consider the desegregation of Federal courts to be of utmost importance.

Since you are Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we implore you to exercise your leadership and influence to ensure not only that a confirmation vote is taken by your

committee, but that said vote be a favorable one. To allow this current delaying tactic to continue will do irreparable harm not only to Blacks in San Diego who seek and cry out for justice, but it will also do similar harm to all decent people in the Southern District of California who want to see the Federal courts there desegregated.

Again, we call upon you to take immediate and firm steps to bring this matter to an immediate and favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Harris
President

RLH:mu

cc: California Legislative
Black Caucus
Congressional Black Caucus
Senator Alan Cranston

bcc: JCrump
WBorders
AHubbard
DWeber
Judge EGilliam
LEdwards