**ACTL Pending Legislation**

**115th Congress (2017-2018)**

July 26, 2018

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**Executive Orders**

* **13767 - Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements** – 1/25/2017

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/30/2017-02095/border-security-and-immigration-enforcement-improvements>

* **13768 - Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States** – 1/25/2017

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/30/2017-02102/enhancing-public-safety-in-the-interior-of-the-united-states>

* **13780 - Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States** – 3/6/2017

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/02/01/2017-02281/protecting-the-nation-from-foreign-terrorist-entry-into-the-united-states>

* **Memorandum amending EO Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorists Entry into the United States** – 3/6/2017

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/03/09/2017-04837/protecting-the-nation-from-foreign-terrorist-entry-into-the-united-states>

**Media in Courtroom & Sunshine Laws:**

* **S 649 – Cameras in the Courtroom Act.** To permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

**Last action 3/15/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/649>

* **HR 1053 – Sunshine in Litigation Act of 2017.** To amend chapter 111 of title 28 USC relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery, and information in civil actions.

**Last action 3/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1053>

* **HR 1025 – Eyes on the Courts Act of 2017**. To provide for media coverage of Federal appellate court proceedings.

**Last action 3/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1025>

* **HR 464 -- Cameras in the Courtroom Act.** Permits televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

**Last action 2/6/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/464>

**Federal Rules**

* **Rule amendments effective December 1, 2017** -- <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/current-rules-practice-procedure>
* **HR 5367 – Protect the Gig Economy Act of 2018**. Amend Rule 23 of the Rules of Civil Procedure to expand the preliminary requirements for class certification in a class action lawsuit to include a new requirement that the claim does not allege misclassification of employees as independent contractors.

**Last action 4/30/2018** – referred to Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5367>

* **S 237 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.** Amends **Rule 11** of the **Federal Rules of Civil Procedure** to improve attorney accountability. See also **HR 720**.

**Last action 11/8/2017** – Hearings held

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/237>

* **HR 720 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.** Amends sanctions provisions in **Rule 11 of Federal Rules Civil Procedure** to require court to impose appropriate sanctions on any attorney, law firm, etc. with regard to representations to the court.

**Last action 3/13/2017** – in Senate Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/720>

* **HR 1110 – Stopping Mass Hacking Act.** Repeals certain amendments made to **Rule 41** of the Rules of **Criminal Procedure**.

**Last action3/6/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1110>

* **S 406** – **Stopping Mass Hacking Act.** Repeals certain amendments made to **Rule 41** of the Rules of **Criminal Procedure**.

**Last action 2/16/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/406>

**Courts**

* **HR 3899 – Redefine Eastern & Middle Districts of NC.** To amend title 28, USC, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial district of North Carolina. See also **S 1416**.

**Last action 10/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3899/actions>

* **S 1107 – Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017**. To amend title 28, USC, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges. See also **S 632** & **HR 136**.

**Last action 9/6/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1107>

* **HR 2660 – APPEAL Act.** To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide exclusive original jurisdiction to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia of certain cases relating to the powers of the Executive.

**Last action 7/11/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2660>

* **HR 1598 – Ninth Circuit Court Modernization & Twelfth Circuit Creation Act of 2017.** To amend title 28 USC to divide the ninth judicial circuit into 2 circuits.

**Last action 3/31/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1598>

* **S 296 – Federal Courts of Appeals Modernization Act**. Establishes commission to study structural alternatives for FCA, especially the 9th Circuit.

**Last action 2/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/296>

* **S 295 – Circuit Court of Appeals Restructuring and Modernization Act.** To amend Title 28 USC to provide for appointment of Federal Circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Circuit of the US into 2 circuits.

**Last action 2/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/295>

* **S 276 – Judicial Administration and Improvement Act.** To amend Title 28 USC to divide the ninth judicial circuit of the US into 2 circuits.

**Last action 2/2/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/276>

* **HR 196 – Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judgeship & Reorganization Act.** To amend Title 28 USC to provide for appointment of Federal Circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Circuit of the US into 2 circuits.

**Last action 1/13/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/196>

* **HR 250 – Judicial Administration and Improvement Act.** To amend Title 28 USC to divide the ninth judicial circuit of the US into 2 circuits.

**Last action 1/13/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/250>

**Litigation**

* **S 237 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.** Amends **Rule 11** of the **Federal Rules of Civil Procedure** to improve attorney accountability.

**Last action 11/8/2017** – Hearings held

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/237>

* **HR 720 – Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.** Amends sanctions provisions in **Rule 11 of Federal Rules Civil Procedure** to require court to impose appropriate sanctions on any attorney, law firm, etc. with regard to representations to the court.

**Last action 3/13/2017** – in Senate Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/720>

* **HR 725 – Innocent Party Protection Act**. To amend Title 28 USC to prevent fraudulent joinder.

**Last action 3/13/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/725>

* **HR 985 – Fairness in Class Action Litigation.** To amend procedures used in Federal court class actions & MDL proceedings to assure fairer, more efficient outcomes for claimants & defendants.

**Last action 3/13/2017** – in Senate Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/985>

**Access to Justice**

* **S 717 – POWER Act**. To promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence.

**Last action 7/17/2018 –** passed House 7/17/2018

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/717>

* **HR 1003 – DC Court & Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act**. To authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.

**Last action 4/6/2017** -- reported

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1003>

* **HR 1033 – Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act**. Amends titles 5 and 28 USC to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees, and other expenses to prevailing parities in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party.

**Last action 2/28/2017** – in Senate Committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1033>

* **S 378 – Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act.** Amends title 5 and 28 USC to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees, and other expenses to prevailing parities in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party.

**Last action 2/14/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/378>

* **S 328 – Equal Justice Under Law.** To enforce the Sixth Amendment right to assistance of effective counsel at all stages of the adversarial process, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the US to provide declaratory and injunctive relief against systemic violations of such right.

**Last action 2/7/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/328>

* **HR 968 – Equal Justice Under Law.** To enforce the Sixth Amendment right to assistance of effective counsel at all stages of the adversarial process, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the US to provide declaratory and injunctive relief against systemic violations of such right.

**Last action 3/9/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/968>

* **HR 969 – Gideon Act.** To amend title 18 USC to establish a corporation to advocate on behalf of individuals in noncapital criminal cases before the Supreme Court. See also **S 330**.

**Last action 3/9/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/969>

**DNA**

* **HR 510 -- Rapid DNA Act of 2017**. To establish a system for integration of Rapid DNA instruments for use by law enforcement to reduce violent crime and reduce the current DNA analysis backlog.

**Last action 8/18/2017 – PUBLIC LAW 115-50**

<https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ50/PLAW-115publ50.pdf>

* **S 139 – Rapid DNA Act of 2017**. To implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs.

**See HR 510 above**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/139>

**Sentencing**

* **S 1917 – Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017.** To reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions.

**Last action 2/15/2018** – reported out of committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1917>

* **HR 3800 – Mandatory Minimum Reform Act of 2017**. To eliminate mandatory sentences for all drug offenses.

**Last action 9/28/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3800>

* **HR 3227 – Justice is Not for Sale Act**. To improve Federal sentencing and corrections practices.

**Last action 8/3/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3227>

* **HR 2435 – Justice Safety Valve Act of 2017**. To amend title 18, USC, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments.

**Last action 6/7/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2435>

* **S 1127 – Justice Safety Valve Act of 2017**. To amend title 18, USC, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments.

**Last action 5/16/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1127>

**Ethics**

* **HR 5505** - **Special Counsel Independence & Integrity Act.** To ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel. See also S 2644 and HR 5476

**Last action 5/15/2018**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5505>

* **S 2644 – Special Counsel Independence & Integrity Act**. To ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel. See also HR 5476 and HR 5505

**Last action 4/26/2018** – Placed on Senate Calendar

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2644>

* **HR 5476 – Special Counsel Independence & Integrity Act.** To ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel. See also S 2644 and HR 5505

**Last action 4/11/2018** – Referred to Judiciary

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5476>

* **HR 4698 – Judicial Redaction Authority Act of 2017**. To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports

**Last action 12/20/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4698>

* **S 2195 – Judicial Transparency & Ethics Enhancement Act of 2017.** To amend title 28, USC, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch.

**Last action 12/6/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2195>

* **HR 3229 – Protect Judges Safety**. To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports

**Last action 9/28/2017** – passed House 9/27/2017

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3229>

* **S 1584 – Ethics in Government.** To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the US to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees.

**Last action 10/16/2017**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1584>