



Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System

About the Task Force

The bipartisan Task Force will highlight one of the most critical issues facing the legal profession — the underfunding of the justice system. This issue has jeopardized state and federal courts' ability to operate as an independent branch of government.

Public hearings are being held, and state and local bar associations are being asked to lead delegations to meet with legislators and policymakers throughout the United States. The Task Force will then provide a written report to be considered by the ABA House of Delegates in Aug. 2011.

The Right Time to Look at Court Funding Issues

Our state courts provide answers for individuals, families and businesses. In times of economic distress, court caseloads usually go up. Now more than ever, courts need to be available to efficiently address the rise in foreclosure cases; domestic relations, consumer issues and housing disputes; as well as cases that affect our nation's businesses. Instead, state budget deficits are forcing states to institute furloughs, lay offs, pay cuts, pay freezes and personnel cuts. These cuts prevent courts from providing the timely answers that enable people to move on with their lives and businesses to focus on innovation, production and growth.

When the judiciary is underfunded, the three branches of government are out of balance. Our state courts must be regarded and respected as more than a line item in a budget.