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For immediate release:

Today Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb of the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin announced her intention to take senior status. In a statement released to the media, Judge Crabb announced:

Over the past several years, this court's ever-expanding and increasingly complex caseload has required extraordinary efforts from all of the judges and court staff in order to provide the prompt resolution of cases that all litigants have a right to expect. All indicators suggest that this trend will continue unabated.

One solution would be to ask Congress to authorize a third judgeship for this court, but this would be a time-consuming and expensive proposition. A more cost-effective and immediate solution would be for me to take senior status. This would allow me to continue my work for the court at a less frenetic pace while opening a full-time position for another federal judge. Given the nation's current economic straits and the immediate needs of this court, I have decided after considerable reflection that this is the best course for all concerned. Therefore, I have written President Obama to report my intention to take senior status as soon as my successor can be appointed.

Judge Crabb was appointed as federal district judge by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. She was elevated to chief judge in 1980 and served in that capacity until 1996 and again from 2001 to present. During her tenure, the court has maintained one of the most current dockets in the federal judiciary, notwithstanding a caseload among the top 20 percent of all federal district courts. Some of Judge Crabb's most significant decisions include a series of decisions issued between 1987 and 1991 in *Lac Court Oreilles Chippewa Indians v. State of Wisconsin*, 74-C-313-C, which defined the limits of Ojibwe tribal treaty rights, *Jones 'El v. Berge*, 00-C-421-C, in which she enjoined the Department of Corrections from housing seriously mentally ill inmates at Wisconsin's Supermax prison facility and most recently, *Siefert v. Alexander*, 08-cv-126, decided last month, in which she struck down three provisions of Wisconsin's judicial code of ethics as unlawful restrictions on the First Amendment rights of judicial candidates.

Judge Crabb and Judge John Shabaz, who assumed senior status on January 20, 2009, have presided together as the two district judges for the Western District of Wisconsin for more than 25 years. Their successors will be appointed by President Obama upon the

recommendation of U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, who are advised by an 11-member nominating commission.

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