

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2023

Hon. Roslynn R. Mauskopf
Director
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
One Columbus Circle, NE
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Judge Mauskopf:

Thank you for your update on the Judicial Conference’s recently adopted clarifications to the Committee on Financial Disclosure’s regulations on “personal hospitality.” The recent reporting regarding Justice Thomas’s disclosure practices has made especially clear the importance of these long overdue clarifications.

Your letter also stated that the Committee on Codes of Conduct does not have jurisdiction to issue guidance related to the Ethics in Government Act’s “personal hospitality” exemption.¹ However, your letter did not state whether other committees of the Judicial Conference have such jurisdiction. Accordingly, I request responses to the following questions.

1. Do any committees of the Judicial Conference have jurisdiction to advise judges on the scope of the “personal hospitality” exemption or any other issues related to the Ethics in Government Act’s financial disclosure requirements?
2. If so, have Supreme Court justices requested such advice in the past?
3. Was the advice Justice Thomas solicited about the “personal hospitality” exemption² sought from any committee of the Judicial Conference? If so, on what date(s) did he make such a request?

¹ Letter from Hon. Roslynn Mauskopf to Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse 2 (Mar. 23, 2023).

² Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott and Alex Mierjeski, *Clarence Thomas Defends Undisclosed “Family Trips” With GOP Megadonor. Here are the Facts.*, ProPublica (Apr. 7, 2023), <https://www.propublica.org/article/clarence-thomas-response-trips-legal-experts-harlan-crow>.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

Chairman, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on
Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action,
and Federal Rights

cc: Hon. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.