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## 2008-11-21 H. Thomas Wells, Jr. ABA Presidential Correspondence

H. Thomas Wells Jr.

University of Alabama School of Law

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# **CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

# H. Thomas Wells, Jr. November 21, 2008

Origin	Correspondence	Date	Revd	Status (All suggested dispositions subject to review by TW)	CCs (Informational copies)
IL	Kevin McCartney Senior Vice President, Gov't Relations Boys & Girls Clubs of America Ltr congratulations on receiving a 2008 Grant Award from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	11/6	11/17	Forwarded to Krista Kauper, FJE	
AL	William N. Clark Birmingham, AL Ltr – re: Selection of Appellate Judges; would like to be part of the Fair and Impartial State Courts Summit, if possible	11/18	11/20	Katy responded on 11/21/08	
Email	Albert C. Harvey John Norton Moore Scott L. Silliman Ltr – thanks for delivering welcome remarks at the 18th Annual Review of the Field on National Security Law: Issues for the New Administration	11/20	11/20	NRN	



November 6, 2008

Mr. H. Thomas Wells President American Bar Association 321 North Clark Street Chicago, IL 60654-7598

Dear Mr. Wells,

Congratulations on receiving a 2008 Grant Award from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We at Boys & Girls Clubs of America support the important work you do to prevent crime among our nation's youth, and to enable them to change their lives and their communities for the better.

I look forward to working with you on programs that positively impact the youth we serve, to help them reach their full potential to become responsible, caring, successful citizens. Let's continue to build our relationship and to work together toward increasing the amount of OJJDP Awards next year.

Warm regards,

Kévin McCartney

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November 20, 2008

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Mr. H. Thomas Wells, Jr. President American Bar Association Chicago, IL

By email

Dear Tommy:

On behalf of the Center for National Security Law, the Center on Law, Ethics and National Security and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security, we would like to thank you for delivering the welcoming remarks at our recent conference, "The 18th Annual Review of the Field of National Security Law: Issues for the New Administration," on November 7, 2008 in Washington, DC. Your comments on behalf of the ABA were very much appreciated and of great interest to our audience.

A summary record of the conference proceedings will be published in our newsletter, The National Security Law Report and the audio portion of the program will be posted on our website to reach an even wider audience.

Again, we thank you for participating in this year's conference. Your insight and perspective afforded the conferees a unique opportunity to better understand the difficult national security issues confronting our nation, its leaders, and their lawyers.

Sincerely,

Albert C. Harvey

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November 21, 2008

William N. Clark Redden, Mills & Clark, LLP 940 Financial Center 505 Twentieth Street North Birmingham, AL 35203

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am responding to your November 18 letter to Tommy Wells expressing your interest in attending the Summit on Fair and Impartial Courts next spring. At Tommy's suggestion, we have added you to our database of individuals who are being considered to participate in the summit.

Best regards,

Katy Englehart Associate Director

ABA Office of the President

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Re: Selection of Appellate Judges

Dear Tommy:

I was very pleased to read your statement in the news regarding your concern about the methods of selection of appellate judges in the United States. As you know, I have been working for a number of years to try and change the method of selection of appellate judges in Alabama from partisan elections to merit selection. I would like to be a part of the national summit which you are planning to discuss the selection of state court judges if that is possible.

Our firm has long been interested in this important need for change in Alabama. My late partner, Drew Redden, was Chair of a committee of the State Bar a number of years ago which worked toward that end. As President-Elect and President of the Alabama State Bar I chaired an ad hoc committee which lead to the preparation of a bill and constitutional amendment providing for the merit selection of appellate judges. That committee worked extremely hard and the Board of Bar Commissioners eventually passed a resolution supporting the bill and constitutional amendment. It has subsequently been introduced in the Legislature, but without success.

The consensus of the committee was that in order to pass such a bill it would be necessary to have a grass roots process lead by a non-lawyer civic leader, but of course joined by lawyers who would provide the requisite expertise. A similar process was used

by then Chief Justice Howell Heflin in passing the Judicial Article. Our committee made an effort to find a civic leader to lead such an effort, but was unable to do so at the time.

I have spoken recently on the subject of merit selection to the Leadership Alabama class, and at a program at Cumberland. It is surprising that once people are educated about the election process in Alabama, and the difference in the selection of judges and legislators, the majority favor merit selection.

I appreciate the tremendous commitment which you have made. I would like the opportunity to support your efforts in this important area.

Very truly yours,

William N. Clark

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WNC/rb