



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001  
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2009**

Contact: Matt Biggs  
(202) 239-4880

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**Gregory J. Junemann**  
PRESIDENT

**Paul Shearon**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**AREA VICE PRESIDENTS**

**Joseph McGee**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
NORTHWESTERN

**Larry Chojnacki**  
MIDWESTERN

**Cynthia Cole**  
SPEEA

**Ron Dicks**  
WESTERN

**Misty Hughes-Newman**  
CANADIAN

**Debbie D. Logsdon**  
SPEEA

**John G. Lowden Jr.**  
ATLANTIC

**Lawrence V. Marrell**  
SPEEA

**R. Kirk Miller**  
EASTERN FEDERAL

**Mark Mitchell**  
WESTERN

**Andrew Müller**  
CANADIAN

**Gerald Newsome**  
ATLANTIC

**Benjamin T. Toyama**  
WESTERN FEDERAL

**Charlie Trembley**  
NORTHEASTERN

**Allan Yamaguchi**  
NORTHWESTERN

## **Senators Akaka, Pryor, Introduce Enhanced Annual Leave Bill** Bill Provides Leave Parity for Federal Judges

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Mark Pryor (D-AR) jointly introduced a bill to enhance the annual leave for administrative law judges (ALJs), contract board of appeals judges (CBAJs), and Immigration Judges (IJs). The bill, which has yet to be numbered, is identical to S. 3665 from the previous 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Last year the previous Administration's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) excluded ALJs, CBAJs and IJs from the annual leave benefits for senior level federal employees. Before this decision by OPM, these groups, along with other senior executive employees, enjoyed the very same annual leave benefits of eight hours with each bi-weekly pay period, as is stipulated by the *Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004*. The Akaka/Pryor bill, if passed, will bring the annual leave of federal judges in line with that of other senior level federal workers.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers President, Gregory Junemann, provided the following comment in response to the introduction of the Akaka/Pryor bill:

"IFPTE thanks Senators Akaka and Pryor for introducing this much needed bill. Unfortunately the last Administration decided to hold annual leave benefits of ALJs hostage in an attempt to move forward their goal of pay for performance for our federal judges. It is heartening however that Senators Akaka and Pryor have reintroduced this bill in the hopes that the Obama Administration's OPM will be more supportive."

Judge Dana Leigh Marks, President of The National Association of Immigration Judges (NAIJ), IFPTE Judicial Council II, also issued the following comment:

"The National Association of Immigration Judges is pleased to acknowledge the leadership shown by Senators Akaka and Pryor and deeply appreciates the concern they have shown in drafting an improved leave bill which recognizes the unique needs of our specialized corps."

Capping off the comments was Judge Ron Bernoski, President of the Association of Administration Law Judges (AALJ), IFPTE Judicial Council I:

"We commend the leadership of Senators Akaka and Pryor in sponsoring this needed reform legislation. We have members in our Corps of administrative law judges who have served a career in the armed forces of this nation and are required to start at the bottom of the Federal government leave schedule because of the current OPM policy. This change will correct this unjust policy."

Senator Akaka Chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, while Senator Pryor is a member of the full committee.

###