117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 4827

To amend title 28, United States Code, to protect employees of the Federal judiciary from discrimination, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 29, 2021

Mr. Johnson of Georgia (for himself, Ms. Speier, Mr. Nadler, Mrs. Torres of California, and Ms. Mace) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 28, United States Code, to protect employees of the Federal judiciary from discrimination, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Judiciary Account-
- 5 ability Act of 2021".

1	SEC. 2. PROTECTING EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL JUDI-
2	CIARY FROM DISCRIMINATION.
3	(a) In General.—Chapter 57 of title 28, United
4	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5	lowing:
6	"§ 964. Protecting employees of the Federal judiciary
7	from discrimination
8	"(a) Discriminatory Practices Prohibited.—All
9	personnel actions (as such term is defined in section
0	2302(a)(2) of title 5) affecting covered employees (as such
1	term is defined in section 10 of the Judiciary Account-
2	ability Act of 2021) shall be made free from any discrimi-
3	nation based on—
4	"(1) race, color, religion, sex (including sexual
5	orientation or gender identity), or national origin,
6	within the meaning of section 703 of the Civil
7	Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-2);
8	"(2) age, within the meaning of section 15 of
9	the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
20	(29 U.S.C. 633a); or
21	"(3) disability, within the meaning of section
22	501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
23	791) and sections 102 through 104 of the Americans
24	with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12112-
25	12114).
26	"(b) Remedy.—

1	"(1) CIVIL RIGHTS.—The remedy for a viola-
2	tion of subsection (a)(1) shall be—
3	"(A) such remedy as would be appropriate
4	if awarded under section 706(g) of the Civil
5	Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–5(g));
6	and
7	"(B) such compensatory damages as would
8	be appropriate if awarded under section 1977
9	of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981), or as
10	would be appropriate if awarded under sections
11	1977A(a)(1), 1977A(b)(2), and, irrespective of
12	the size of the employing office,
13	1977A(b)(3)(D) of the Revised Statutes (42
14	U.S.C. $1981a(a)(1)$, $1981a(b)(2)$, and
15	1981a(b)(3)(D)).
16	"(2) AGE DISCRIMINATION.—The remedy for a
17	violation of subsection (a)(2) shall be—
18	"(A) such remedy as would be appropriate
19	if awarded under section 15(c) of the Age Dis-
20	crimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29
21	U.S.C. $633a(c)$; and
22	"(B) such liquidated damages as would be
23	appropriate if awarded under section 7(b) of
24	such Act (29 U.S.C. 626(b)).

1 In addition, the waiver provisions of section 7(f) of 2 such Act (29 U.S.C. 626(f)) shall apply to covered 3 employees. 4 "(3) DISABILITIES DISCRIMINATION.—The rem-5 edy for a violation of subsection (a)(3) shall be— 6 "(A) such remedy as would be appropriate 7 if awarded under section 505(a)(1) of the Reha-8 bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794a(a)(1)) 9 or section 107(a) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12117(a)); and 10 11 "(B) such compensatory damages as would 12 appropriate if awarded under sections 13 1977A(a)(2), 1977A(a)(3), 1977A(b)(2), and, 14 irrespective of the size of the employing office, 15 1977A(b)(3)(D) of the Revised Statutes (42) 16 U.S.C. 1981a(a)(2), 1981a(a)(3), 1981a(b)(2), 17 and 1981a(b)(3)(D). 18 "(c) Report.—On an annual basis, the judicial 19 council of each circuit shall submit to Congress a report 20 that includes, for the previous year, hiring statistics for 21 the circuit, each court of the United States for the circuit, 22 each Federal Public Defender Organization described in 23 section 3006A(g)(2)(A) of title 18 that is associated with the circuit, and each office or agency referred to in section

- 1 10(2)(A) of the Judiciary Accountability Act of 2021 that
- 2 is associated with the circuit.".
- 3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
- 4 for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
- 5 by adding at the end the following:
 - "964. Protecting employees of the Federal judiciary from discrimination.".

6 SEC. 3. PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE FEDERAL

- 7 JUDICIARY FROM RETALIATION.
- 8 (a) In General.—Chapter 57 of title 28, United
- 9 States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended
- 10 by adding at the end the following:

11 "§ 965. Protecting whistleblowers from retaliation

- 12 "(a) IN GENERAL.—No justice, judge, covered em-
- 13 ployee, or contractor or subcontractor of an office or agen-
- 14 cy in the judicial branch of the Federal Government may
- 15 discharge, demote, threaten, suspend, harass, or in any
- 16 other manner discriminate against a covered employee (as
- 17 such term is defined in section 10 of the Judiciary Ac-
- 18 countability Act of 2021) in the terms and conditions of
- 19 employment because of any lawful act done by the covered
- 20 employee or perceived to have been done by the covered
- 21 employee or any person perceived to be associated with
- 22 or assisting the covered employee to provide information,
- 23 cause information to be provided, or otherwise assist in
- 24 an investigation regarding any possible violation of Fed-
- 25 eral law, rule, or regulation or misconduct by a justice,

- 1 judge, contractor or subcontractor with an office or agency
- 2 of the judicial branch of the Federal Government, or cov-
- 3 ered employee.
- 4 "(b) Remedy.—A court may order such legal or eq-
- 5 uitable relief as may be necessary to eliminate the direct
- 6 and indirect effects of a violation of subsection (a).
- 7 "(c) Burden of Proof.—Proceedings to determine
- 8 a violation shall be governed by the legal burdens of proof
- 9 specified in section 1221(e) of title 5.
- 10 "(d) Venue.—Notwithstanding section 1391, an ac-
- 11 tion under this section may be filed in any United States
- 12 district court.".
- 13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
- 14 for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, as amended
- 15 by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the
- 16 following:

"965. Protecting whistleblowers from retaliation.".

- 17 SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON JUDI-
- 18 CIAL INTEGRITY.
- 19 (a) COMMISSION.—There is established in the judicial
- 20 branch of the Federal Government the Commission on Ju-
- 21 dicial Integrity.
- (b) Membership.—The membership of the Commis-
- 23 sion consists of the following 16 members:
- 24 (1) Presidential appointment.—The fol-
- lowing 3 members appointed by the President:

- 1 (A) A Chair selected from a list of not 2 more than 3 candidates recommended by the 3 concurrence of the Council of the Inspectors 4 General on Integrity and Efficiency.
 - (B) A Vice Chair selected from a list of not more than 3 candidates recommended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
 - (C) A Vice Chair selected from a list of not more than 3 candidates recommended by the United States Commission on Civil Rights.
 - (2) Expert representation.—The following 7 members selected by a recorded vote (which shall be made available on uscourts.gov, or any successor thereto, along with the transcript of the proceedings and any additional statements by individual members of the Judicial Conference) of the Judicial Conference of the United States after consultation with the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the United States Commission on Civil Rights:

1	(A) 2 members with substantial experience
2	in alternative dispute resolution regarding
3	workplace misconduct.
4	(B) 2 members with substantial experience
5	in enforcing and investigating civil rights laws
6	against workplace discrimination, including 1
7	member with experience representing employ-
8	ees.
9	(C) 1 member with substantial experience
10	working in the office of an inspector general of
11	an agency.
12	(D) 1 member with substantial experience
13	on a State judicial conduct commission or
14	equivalent State body.
15	(E) 1 member with experience providing li-
16	censed counseling and other support for victims
17	of harassment, sexual assault, discrimination
18	or retaliation.
19	(3) Judicial Representation.—2 Federal
20	judges selected by the members appointed under
21	paragraphs (1) and (2) from a list of 6 judges rec-
22	ommended by a recorded vote of the Judicial Con-
23	ference, who—
24	(A) do not serve in the same judicial dis-
25	trict or circuit; and

1	(B) have not been found to have engaged
2	in judicial misconduct, including workplace mis-
3	conduct.
4	(4) Employee representation.—The fol-
5	lowing 4 members selected by the Chair and Vice
6	Chairs:
7	(A) 2 current employees of the judicial
8	branch of the Federal Government who—
9	(i) do not serve in the same court, cir-
10	cuit, agency, or office;
11	(ii) have been employed by the judicial
12	branch of the Federal Government for at
13	least 5 years; and
14	(iii) do not serve in senior executive
15	positions.
16	(B) 2 members who have completed a judi-
17	cial clerkship within the 4 years immediately
18	preceding such selection.
19	(c) Basis for Selection.—
20	(1) In general.—The members shall be se-
21	lected solely on the basis of integrity and dem-
22	onstrated ability in their respective fields. Members
23	shall have training or experience in the application
24	of the rights, protections, procedures, and remedies,

1	or their equivalents under State or Federal law,
2	made applicable under this Act.
3	(2) Limitations.—Except as provided in para-
4	graphs (3) and (4)(A) of subsection (b), no member
5	may be—
6	(A) a current officer or employee of the ju-
7	dicial branch of the Federal Government;
8	(B) a former director or deputy director of
9	the Administrative Office of United States
10	Courts; and
11	(C) a current officer or employee of the
12	legislative or executive branches.
13	(d) Terms of Office.—
14	(1) IN GENERAL.—The members shall serve for
15	4-year terms, except that the first members shall be
16	staggered so that—
17	(A) the Chair and 1 Vice Chair, as des-
18	ignated by the President, serve terms of 5
19	years;
20	(B) 3 members appointed under subsection
21	(b)(2), as designated by the Judicial Con-
22	ference, serve terms of 5 years;
23	(C) 1 member appointed under subsection
24	(b)(3), as designated by the Chair and Vice
25	Chairs, serves a term of 5 years;

1	(D) 1 member appointed under subsection
2	(b)(4), as designated by the Chair and Vice
3	Chairs, serves a term of 5 years; and
4	(E) all other members initially appointed
5	serve terms of 4 years.
6	(2) Service until successor appointed.—A
7	member whose term has expired may continue to
8	serve until the date on which a successor has taken
9	office.
10	(e) Removal.—A member may be removed from of-
11	fice by a majority vote, made on the record in an open
12	meeting, of the Judicial Conference of the United States,
13	with each vote recorded and accompanied by a statement
14	explaining the reason for said vote, subject to the fol-
15	lowing:
16	(1) The removal of a member may only be initi-
17	ated in the event of permanent incapacity, ineffi-
18	ciency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.
19	(2) The Judicial Conference shall communicate
20	the reasons for any such removal to both Houses of
21	Congress and the Commission within 14 days of said
22	removal.
23	(f) Duties.—The Commission shall oversee a work-
24	place misconduct prevention program that is consistent
25	with prevailing best practices and that includes—

- 1 (1) a comprehensive workplace misconduct pol-2 icy;
 - (2) a nationwide confidential reporting system that is readily accessible to current and former employees of the judicial branch of the Federal Government, law schools, and other potential complainants, including those who may interact with judges and senior executives in professional settings outside the judicial branch of the Federal Government;
 - (3) a comprehensive training program on workplace behavior and bystander intervention;
 - (4) metrics for workplace misconduct response and prevention in supervisory employees' performance reviews;
 - (5) a system for independently investigating reports of workplace misconduct that ensures such investigations are comprehensive, timely, effective, and trusted;
 - (6) standards for the imposition of prompt, consistent, and proportionate disciplinary and corrective action if workplace misconduct is determined to have concurred;
 - (7) making publicly available, not less frequently than annually, anonymized reports of aggre-

- gate formal and informal complaints of workplace misconduct received and responsive actions taken;
- 3 (8) making publicly available annual reports of 4 the number of individuals who were interviewed for 5 full-time positions, including judicial clerkships, with 6 a court of the United States, an office or agency de-7 scribed in chapter 15 or part III of title 28, United 8 States Code, or a defender organization described in 9 section 3006A(g) of title 18, United States Code, 10 and who were hired for such positions, which shall 11 be disaggregated by judicial circuit and judicial 12 branch agency, by sex (including by sexual orienta-13 tion and gender identity), by disability, and by the 14 ethnic and the racial categories in the most recent 15 decennial census (or similar categories), with year-16 to-year trends of the most recent 10 years for which 17 data are available, to the extent practicable;
 - (9) making publicly available biennial workplace climate assessments that include surveys of current and former employees and interviews and focus groups of randomly selected current and former employees;
 - (10) conducting annual audits of the efficacy of the workplace misconduct prevention program; and

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1	(11) ensuring that the elements of the work-
2	place misconduct prevention program are easy to un-
3	derstand, easy to access and use, and are regularly
4	communicated to all employees.
5	(g) Additional Duties.—The Commission shall
6	also—
7	(1) select and advise the Special Counsel for
8	Equal Employment Opportunity appointed under
9	section 6;
10	(2) select and supervise the Judicial Integrity
11	Officer appointed under section 5;
12	(3) supervise the Office of Employee Advocacy
13	established under section 7 and select the Chief
14	Counsel for Employee Advocacy under section 7;
15	(4) maintain policies, practices, procedures, and
16	codes of conduct that—
17	(A) preserve the integrity of the Commis-
18	sion and the offices and programs established
19	under this Act;
20	(B) maintain the confidence of covered em-
21	ployees in the Commission and the offices and
22	programs established under this Act; and
23	(C) guarantee procedural rights to individ-
24	uals during investigations and dispute resolu-
25	tion proceedings under this Act;

1	(5) no less than every 4 years, recommend to
2	the Judicial Conference, after notice and opportunity
3	for comment, revisions to the Judicial Conduct and
4	Disability Rules, the Code of Conduct for Judiciary
5	Employees, the Code of Conduct for Federal Public
6	Defender Employees, and the Code of Conduct for
7	United States Judges;
8	(6) ensure that the Judicial Conference, Con-
9	gress, and the public are kept informed of—
10	(A) the work of the Commission;
11	(B) the workplace climate and culture in
12	the judicial branch of the Federal Government,
13	including the incidence of workplace mis-
14	conduct; and
15	(C) the efficacy of the workplace mis-
16	conduct prevention program overseen by the
17	Commission;
18	(7) establish general policies and promulgate
19	such rules and regulations for the Commission as
20	are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act;
21	(8) appoint and fix the salary and duties of the
22	Staff Director, who shall serve at the discretion of
23	the Commission and who shall be compensated at an
24	annual rate not to exceed 92 percent of the annual

1	rate of pay in effect for the Director of the Adminis-
2	trative Office of United States Courts;
3	(9) retain private attorneys (who, when serving
4	as officers or employees of the United States, shall
5	be considered special government employees as de-
6	fined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States
7	Code) to provide legal advice to the Commission in
8	the conduct of its work, or to appear for or rep-
9	resent the Commission in any case in which the
10	Commission is authorized by law to represent itself;
11	and
12	(10) in its discretion, pay reasonable attorney's
13	fees to private attorneys employed by the Commis-
14	sion out of amounts appropriated to the Commis-
15	sion.

(h) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—The Staff Director shall supervise the activities of persons employed by the Commission and perform other duties assigned to the Staff Director by the Commission.

(2) Staff.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Staff Director shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, appoint such officers and employees as are

necessary in the execution of the functions of the Commission.

- (B) APPLICATION OF TITLE 5.—The officers and employees of the Commission shall be exempt from the provisions of part III of title 5, United States Code, except the following: chapters 45 (Incentive Awards), 63 (Leave), 81 (Compensation for Work Injuries), 83 (Retirement), 85 (Unemployment Compensation), 87 (Life Insurance), and 89 (Health Insurance), and subchapter VI of chapter 55 (Payment for accumulated and accrued leave).
- (C) PAY.—The annual rates of pay of the officers and employees of the Commission, other than the Staff Director, shall be fixed at rates not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay for positions at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(i) Compensation.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Commission shall hold full-time positions and shall be compensated during their terms of office at the annual rate at which judges of the United States courts of appeals are compensated.

(2) Per diem.—

- (A) RATE OF COMPENSATION FOR EACH DAY.—Each other member of the Commission shall be compensated, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission, at the daily equivalent of the annual rate of pay payable to judges of the United States courts of appeals.
 - (B) AUTHORITY TO PRORATE.—The rate of pay of a member may be prorated based on the portion of the day during which the member is engaged in the performance of Commission duties.
- (3) Travel expenses.—Each member of the Commission shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, for each day the member is engaged in the performance of duties away from the home or regular place of business of the member.
- (j) GAO AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the
 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
 the Comptroller General of the United States shall con-

- 1 duct a study of the management, governance structure,
- 2 and independence of the Commission.

3 SEC. 5. OFFICE OF JUDICIAL INTEGRITY.

- 4 (a) Establishment.—There is established in the ju-
- 5 dicial branch of the Federal Government the Office of Ju-
- 6 dicial Integrity (in this section referred to as the "OJI").
- 7 (b) Appointment, Term, and Removal of Judi-
- 8 CIAL INTEGRITY OFFICER.—
- 9 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the OJI shall
- be the Judicial Integrity Officer, who shall be ap-
- pointed by the Commission, after consultation with
- the Judicial Conference of the United States.
- 13 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Judicial Integrity
- Officer shall, by demonstrated ability, background,
- training, or experience, be especially qualified to
- 16 carry out the functions of the position.
- 17 (3) TERM.—The Judicial Integrity Officer shall
- serve for a term of 4 years, and may be reappointed
- by the Commission, after public notice and oppor-
- tunity to comment and consultation with the Judi-
- 21 cial Conference of the United States, for an addi-
- tional term.
- 23 (4) Removal.—The Judicial Integrity Officer
- 24 may be removed from office by a majority vote of

1	the Judicial Conference of the United States, subject
2	to the following:
3	(A) The removal of the Judicial Integrity
4	Officer may only be initiated in the event of
5	permanent incapacity, inefficiency, neglect of
6	duty, or malfeasance.
7	(B) The Judicial Conference shall commu-
8	nicate the reasons for any such removal to both
9	Houses of Congress and the Commission not
10	later than 14 days after removal.
11	(c) Staffing.—
12	(1) In General.—The Judicial Integrity Offi-
13	cer shall, after consultation with the Commission,
14	develop a staffing plan which shall include, at a min-
15	imum—
16	(A) 6 deputies;
17	(B) a Director of Workplace Relations
18	for—
19	(i) each judicial circuit;
20	(ii) the Court of International Trade;
21	(iii) the Court of Federal Claims;
22	(iv) each Federal Public Defender Or-
23	ganization described in section
24	3006A(g)(2)(A) of title 18, United States
25	Code; and

1	(v) each judicial branch agency not
2	described in clauses (i) through (iv);
3	(C) at least 2 employee dispute resolution
4	coordinators for—
5	(i) each judicial district;
6	(ii) each judicial circuit;
7	(iii) the Court of International Trade;
8	and
9	(iv) the Court of Federal Claims; and
10	(D) a sufficient number of employee dis-
11	pute resolution coordinators for every other ju-
12	dicial branch agency.
13	(2) Publication of qualifications.—The
14	Commission shall develop and, after public notice
15	and opportunity for comment, post the qualifications
16	for the positions described in this subsection.
17	(d) Duties.—With respect to the judicial branch of
18	the Federal Government, the OJI shall, consistent with
19	prevailing best practices, perform the following:
20	(1) Administer the following elements of the
21	workplace misconduct prevention program under sec-
22	tion $4(f)$:
23	(A) The comprehensive workplace mis-
24	conduct policy.

1	(B) The nationwide, confidential reporting
2	system.
3	(C) In consultation with the Federal Judi-
4	cial Center, the comprehensive training pro-
5	gram on workplace behavior and bystander
6	intervention.
7	(D) The development of metrics for work-
8	place misconduct response and prevention in su-
9	pervisory employees' performance reviews.
10	(E) The development and maintenance of
11	an employee dispute resolution program.
12	(F) Regular public reporting of
13	anonymized workplace misconduct complaints
14	received and responsive action taken.
15	(G) Regular public reporting of the num-
16	ber of individuals who were interviewed for judi-
17	cial clerkship positions and who were hired for
18	such positions, disaggregated by circuit, by sex
19	(including by sexual orientation and gender
20	identity), by disability, and by the ethnic and
21	the racial categories in the most recent decen-
22	nial census (or similar categories).
23	(2) Provide offices and agencies employing cov-

ered employees with confidential advice and coun-

1	seling regarding compliance with this Act (and the
2	amendments made by this Act).
3	(3) Tracking complaints and investigations of
4	workplace misconduct, as well as remedies for such
5	workplace misconduct.
6	(4) Compile anonymized statistics on—
7	(A) the use of the confidential reporting
8	system described in section $4(f)(2)$, including
9	the number and type of contacts made with the
10	OJI;
11	(B) the reason for such contacts;
12	(C) the number of covered employees who
13	initiated proceedings with the OJI under this
14	section and the result of such proceedings; and
15	(D) the number of covered employees who
16	filed a claim, the basis for the claim, and the
17	action taken on the claim.
18	(e) Powers.—In carrying out the duties of the OJI,
19	the Judicial Integrity Officer shall have the power to—
20	(1) make investigations and reports;
21	(2) obtain information or assistance from any
22	Federal, State, or local governmental agency, or
23	other entity, or unit thereof, including all informa-
24	tion kept in the course of business by the Judicial
25	Conference of the United States, the judicial council

- of any circuit, the Administrative Office of the
 United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center,
 the United States Sentencing Commission, and a defender organization described in section 3006A(g) of
 title 18, United States Code;
 - (3) employ such officers and employees as the Judicial Integrity Officer determines appropriate, subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;
 - (4) obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; and
 - (5) to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts—
 - (A) enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons; and
- 24 (B) make such payments as may be nec-25 essary to carry out the duties of the OJI.

1	(f) Reports.—
2	(1) When to be made.—The Judicial Integ-
3	rity Officer shall—
4	(A) make an annual report to the Commis-
5	sion, the Judicial Conference, the judicial coun-
6	cil for each circuit, and to Congress relating to
7	the activities of the OJI; and
8	(B) make prompt reports to the Commis-
9	sion, the Judicial Conference, the judicial coun-
10	cil of a circuit, or Congress on matters that
11	may require action by the Judicial Conference,
12	the judicial council of the circuit, or Congress,
13	respectively.
14	(2) Sensitive matter.—If a report contains
15	sensitive matter, the Judicial Integrity Officer may
16	so indicate and the Commission, Judicial Con-
17	ference, judicial council of a circuit, or Congress
18	may receive that report in closed session.
19	SEC. 6. SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OP
20	PORTUNITY.
21	(a) Establishment.—There is established in the ju-
22	dicial branch of the Federal Government the Office of Spe-
23	cial Counsel for Equal Employment Opportunity (in this
24	section referred to as the "Office").
25	(b) Appointment and Term.—

1	(1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Office
2	shall be the Special Counsel for Equal Employment
3	Opportunity (in this section referred to as the "Spe-
4	cial Counsel"), who shall be appointed by the Com-
5	mission, after consultation with the Judicial Con-
6	ference of the United States and the Council of the
7	Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.
8	(2) TERM.—The Special Counsel shall serve for
9	a single term of 5 years.
10	(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Counsel shall, by
11	demonstrated ability, background, training, or experience,
12	be especially qualified to carry out the functions of the
13	position, and shall not be a current or former officer or
14	employee of the judicial branch of the Federal Govern-
15	ment.
16	(d) Removal.—The Special Counsel may be removed
17	from office by a majority vote of the Judicial Conference
18	of the United States, with each vote recorded and accom-
19	panied by a statement explaining the reason for said vote,
20	subject to the following:
21	(1) The removal of the Special Counsel may
22	only be initiated in the event of permanent inca-
23	pacity, inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.
24	(2) The Judicial Conference shall communicate

the reasons for any such removal to both Houses of

1	Congress and the Commission within 14 days of said
2	removal.
3	(e) Duties.—With respect to the judicial branch of
4	the Federal Government, the Office shall—
5	(1) conduct investigations of alleged workplace
6	misconduct in the judicial branch of the Federal
7	Government and any policies or procedures promul-
8	gated under this Act that may require oversight or
9	other action within the judicial branch of the Fed-
10	eral Government or by Congress;
11	(2) conduct and supervise audits and investiga-
12	tions regarding workplace misconduct and com-
13	plaints;
14	(3) assist in the conduct of investigations pur-
15	suant to section 353 of title 28, United States Code;
16	(4) conduct annual audits in accordance with
17	section $4(f)(10)$; and
18	(5) conduct biennial workplace climate assess-
19	ments in accordance with section 4(f)(9) and sub-
20	section (f) of this section.
21	(f) Workplace Culture Assessment of Employ-
22	ING OFFICES.—
23	(1) Requirement to conduct assess-
24	MENT.—Not later than 90 days after the appoint-
25	ment of the first Special Counsel under this section.

1	and every year thereafter, the Special Counsel shall
2	conduct an assessment of the workplace culture of
3	agencies and offices employing covered employees.
4	Such assessment shall be consistent with prevailing
5	best practices and shall include the following:
6	(A) Indicators of positive and negative
7	trends for maintaining a safe, respectful, di-
8	verse, and inclusive workplace.
9	(B) The specific types of workplace mis-
10	conduct that have occurred, and the incidence
11	of such misconduct.
12	(C) The effectiveness of the policies of the
13	judicial branch of the Federal Government de-
14	signed to prevent and remedy workplace mis-
15	conduct.
16	(D) The effectiveness of the processes of
17	the judicial branch of the Federal Government
18	for complaints on and investigations into work-
19	place misconduct.
20	(E) Any other issues relating to workplace
21	misconduct as the Commission considers appro-
22	priate.
23	(F) A secure, confidential, and anonymous
24	survey of current and former employees who
25	have departed after the last such assessment.

- 1 (G) Focus groups and confidential indi-2 vidual interviews of randomly selected current 3 and former employees.
 - (H) The first such assessment shall include a survey of current covered employees and former covered employees who were employed as a covered employee during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act.
 - (2) Consultation with committees.—The Special Counsel shall carry out this subsection in consultation with the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.
 - (3) Public Report.—An anonymized report on the results of each assessment under this subsection shall be made publicly available not later than 30 days after the completion of the assessment.
- 21 (g) Report to Congress.—Upon the completion of 22 any audit by the Special Counsel, the Special Counsel shall 23 submit to Congress a report containing the results of the 24 audit.
- 25 (h) Powers.—

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1	(1) Powers.—In carrying out the duties of the
2	Office, the Special Counsel shall have the power to—
3	(A) make investigations, audits, and re-
4	ports;
5	(B) obtain assistance from any agency of
6	the judicial branch of the Federal Government,
7	including the Judicial Conference of the United
8	States, the judicial council of each circuit, the
9	Administrative Office of the United States
10	Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, the United
11	States Sentencing Commission, and a defender
12	organization described in section 3006A(g) of
13	title 18, United States Code;
14	(C) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the
15	attendance and testimony of such witnesses,
16	and the production of such books, records, cor-
17	respondence, memoranda, papers, and docu-
18	ments, which subpoena, in the case of contu-
19	macy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by
20	civil action;
21	(D) administer to or take from any person
22	an oath, affirmation, or affidavit;
23	(E) employ such officers and employees as
24	the Special Counsel determines appropriate,
25	subject to the provisions of title 5. United

1	States Code, governing appointments in the
2	competitive service, and the provisions of chap-
3	ter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such
4	title relating to classification and General
5	Schedule pay rates;
6	(F) obtain services as authorized by sec-
7	tion 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at
8	daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate for
9	a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule
10	under section 5315 of such title; and
11	(G) to the extent and in such amounts as
12	may be provided in advance by appropriations
13	Acts—
14	(i) enter into contracts and other ar-
15	rangements for audits, studies, analyses,
16	and other services with public agencies and
17	with private persons; and
18	(ii) make such payments as may be
19	necessary to carry out the duties of the Of-
20	fice.
21	(2) Limitation.—The Special Counsel shall
22	not have the authority to investigate or review any
23	matter that is directly related to the merits of a de-
24	cision or procedural ruling by any judge, justice, or
25	court.

1	(i) Reports.—
2	(1) When to be made.—The Special Counsel
3	shall—
4	(A) make an annual report to the Commis-
5	sion, the Judicial Conference, the judicial coun-
6	cil of each circuit, and Congress relating to the
7	activities of the Office; and
8	(B) make prompt reports to the Commis-
9	sion, the Judicial Conference, the judicial coun-
10	cil of a circuit, Congress, and the Department
11	of Justice on matters that may require action
12	by the Commission, the Judicial Conference,
13	the judicial council of the circuit, Congress, or
14	the Department of Justice.
15	(2) Sensitive matter.—If a report contains
16	sensitive matter, the Special Counsel may so indicate
17	and the Commission, the Judicial Conference, the
18	judicial council of a circuit, and to Congress may re-
19	ceive that report in closed session.
20	SEC. 7. OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ADVOCACY.
21	(a) Establishment.—There is established in the ju-
22	dicial branch of the Federal Government the Office of Em-
23	ployee Advocacy (in this section referred to as the
24	"OEA").

(b) DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE ADVOCACY.—

1	(1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the OEA
2	shall be the Director of Employee Advocacy, who
3	shall be appointed by the Commission, after con-
4	sultation with the Judicial Conference of the United
5	States, the Equal Employment Opportunity Com-
6	mission, and the United States Commission on Civil
7	Rights.
8	(2) Term.—The Director shall serve for a sin-
9	gle term of 5 years.
10	(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Director shall, by
11	demonstrated ability, background, training, or expe-
12	rience, be especially qualified to carry out the func-
13	tions of the position.
14	(e) Functions.—
15	(1) Legal assistance, consultation, and
16	REPRESENTATION.—Subject to paragraph (5), the
17	OEA shall carry out the following functions:
18	(A) Receive complaints from any covered
19	employee in the judiciary branch of the Federal
20	Government of workplace misconduct.
21	(B) Provide confidential support and infor-
22	mation, including referrals to medical and men-
23	tal health care.
24	(C) Provide legal assistance and consulta-
25	tion to covered employees described in subpara-

1	graph (A) under this Act and chapter 16 of
2	title 28, United States Code, regarding the pro-
3	cedures under this Act and such chapter 16 and
4	the procedures applicable to civil actions arising
5	under this Act and such chapter 16, includ-
6	ing—
7	(i) the roles and responsibilities of the
8	Commission, the Office of Judicial Integ-
9	rity, the Special Counsel for Equal Em-
10	ployment Opportunity, the judicial councils
11	of the circuits, the Directors of Workplace
12	Relations, the employee dispute resolution
13	coordinators described in section
14	5(c)(1)(C), and similar authorities;
15	(ii) any proceedings conducted under
16	this Act and chapter 16 of title 28, United
17	States Code;
18	(iii) the authority of the Special Coun-
19	sel for Equal Employment Opportunity to
20	compel cooperation and testimony under
21	investigations and proceedings conducted
22	under this Act; and
23	(iv) the employee's rights and duties
24	relating to such proceedings.

1	(D) Provide legal assistance and represen-
2	tation—
3	(i) in personal civil legal matters re-
4	lated to the initiation of or participation in
5	proceedings under this Act by a covered
6	employee in the judiciary branch of the
7	Federal Government; and
8	(ii) in any proceedings under chapter
9	16 of title 28, United States Code, or this
10	Act, or before any other administrative or
11	judicial body related to the alleged viola-
12	tions of such chapter 16 or this Act which
13	are the subject of the proceedings initiated
14	by the covered employee, or the pro-
15	ceedings in which the covered employee
16	participates.
17	(E) Operate a hotline through which cov-
18	ered employees in the judiciary branch of the
19	Federal Government may contact the OEA.
20	(2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN
21	ANY JURISDICTION.—Notwithstanding any law re-
22	garding the licensure of attorneys, an attorney who
23	is employed by the OEA and is authorized to provide
24	legal assistance and representation under this sec-
25	tion is authorized to provide that assistance and rep-

- resentation in any jurisdiction, subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the OEA.
- 3 (3) NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP.—The relation4 ship between the OEA and an employee to whom the
 5 OEA provides legal assistance, consultation, and
 6 representation under this section shall be the rela7 tionship between an attorney and client.
- 8 (4) Prohibiting acceptance of award of 9 Attorney fees or other Costs.—The OEA may 10 not accept any award of attorney fees or other litigation expenses or costs under any hearing or civil action brought under this Act.
- 13 (5) PROHIBITING ASSISTANCE IN OTHER MAT14 TERS OR PROCEEDINGS.—The OEA may not provide
 15 any legal assistance, consultation, or representation
 16 with respect to any matter or proceeding which does
 17 not arise under this Act or chapter 16 of title 28,
 18 United States Code.

19 SEC. 8. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT.

- 20 (a) Establishing Discrimination and Retalia-
- 21 TION AS JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT.—Section 358 of title 28,
- 22 United States Code, is amended—
- 23 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
- 24 following:

1	"(a) In General.—Each judicial council and the
2	Judicial Conference shall prescribe rules for the conduct
3	of proceedings under this chapter, including the processing
4	of petitions for review that—
5	"(1) ensure the independence, integrity, impar-
6	tiality, and competence of proceedings under this
7	chapter;
8	"(2) ensure the greatest possible public con-
9	fidence in proceedings under this chapter and main-
10	tain public confidence in the Federal judiciary;
11	"(3) reflect that the judicial office is a position
12	of public trust; and
13	"(4) effectuate sections 453 and the provisions
14	of the Judiciary Accountability Act of 2021.";
15	(2) in subsection (b)—
16	(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at
17	the end;
18	(B) in paragraph (3)—
19	(i) by inserting "(with the right to be
20	accompanied by counsel)" after "appear";
21	and
22	(ii) by striking the period at the end
23	and inserting "; and"; and
24	(C) by adding the following at the end:

1	"(4) providing that workplace misconduct (as
2	defined in the Judiciary Accountability Act of 2021)
3	constitutes a violation of this chapter, including con-
4	duct prohibited under sections 964 and 965 of this
5	title.";
6	(3) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—
7	(A) by striking "notice and an oppor-
8	tunity" and inserting "notice, and an oppor-
9	tunity''; and
10	(B) by striking the period at the end and
11	inserting ", and written explanation in the Fed-
12	eral Register."; and
13	(4) by adding at the end the following:
14	"(d) Transmission to Congress.—Not later than
15	180 days before the date on which a rule prescribed under
16	this section is to become effective, the Chief Justice of the
17	United States, or, if applicable, the presiding officer of
18	the judicial council, shall transmit to the Congress a copy
19	of the proposed rule. The rule shall take effect unless oth-
20	erwise provided by law.".
21	(b) FILING AND IDENTIFYING COMPLAINTS.—Sec-
22	tion 351 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—
23	(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
24	following: "For purposes of this chapter, a complaint
25	identified under this subsection shall be treated in

- the same manner as a complaint filed under subsection (a).";

 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and
- 5 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:
- 7 "(d) IDENTIFYING COMPLAINT BY JUDICIAL CON-8 FERENCE.—In the interests of the effective and expedi-9 tious administration of the business of the courts and on 10 the basis of information available to the Judicial Con-11 ference, the Judicial Conference may, by written order
- 12 stating reasons therefor, identify a complaint for purposes
- 13 of this chapter and thereby dispense with filing of a writ-
- 14 ten complaint. Upon identifying a complaint under this
- 15 paragraph, the Judicial Conference shall refer the com-
- 16 plaint in accordance with the transmittal procedures de-
- 17 scribed in subsection (c).
- 18 "(e) Special Rule for Employees Filing Com-
- 19 PLAINTS.—
- 20 "(1) In general.—A complaint described in
- 21 subsection (a) made by a current or former covered
- 22 employee (as such term is defined in the Judiciary
- Accountability Act of 2021) may be filed with the
- Judicial Conference.

1	"(2) Transmittal by Judicial con-
2	FERENCE.—Upon receipt of a complaint filed under
3	this subsection, the Judicial Conference shall trans-
4	mit the complaint in accordance with subsection
5	(e).".
6	(c) Expanded Definition of Judge.—Subsection
7	(f)(1) of section 351 of title 28, United States Code, as
8	so redesignated by subsection (b) of this section, is amend-
9	ed by striking "a circuit judge" and all that follows and
10	inserting "a judge described in chapter 17 of this title or
11	an individual who was such a judge during the conduct
12	described in the complaint.".
13	(d) Effect of Resignation or Retirement of
14	JUDGE.—Chapter 16 of title 28, United States Code, is
15	amended—
16	(1) in section 352, by adding at the end the fol-
17	lowing:
18	"(e) Effect of Vacancy of Office.—The resigna-
19	tion, retirement from office under chapter 17, or death
20	of a judge who is the subject of a complaint under section
21	351 shall not be grounds for—
22	"(1) the dismissal of the complaint under sub-
23	section (b)(1); or
24	"(2) the conclusion that the complaint is no
25	longer necessary under subsection (b)(2)."; and

1	(2) in section 353, by adding at the end the fol-
2	lowing:
3	"(d) Effect of Vacancy of Office.—The special
4	committee shall complete its investigation and file a report
5	under subsection (c) without regard for the resignation,
6	retirement from office under chapter 17, or death of the
7	judge whose conduct is the subject of the complaint.".
8	(e) Expanding Authority of Judicial Coun-
9	CIL.—Section 354(a)(2)(A) of title 28, United States
10	Code, is amended—
11	(1) in clause (i)—
12	(A) by inserting "or subject to the comple-
13	tion of any corrective measures recommended
14	by the judicial council" after "on a temporary
15	basis for a time certain"; and
16	(B) by inserting ", or that any current
17	cases assigned to the judge be reassigned" be-
18	fore the semicolon at the end;
19	(2) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;
20	(3) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the
21	end and inserting "; and"; and
22	(4) by adding at the end the following:
23	"(iv) in the case of a complaint based
24	on workplace misconduct, ordering such
25	action as the judicial council determines

1	appropriate to protect employees from the
2	workplace misconduct.".
3	(f) Fair and Impartial Investigations and De-
4	TERMINATIONS BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND JUDICIAL
5	COUNCIL.—Chapter 16 of title 28, United States Code,
6	is amended—
7	(1) in section 353(a), by striking paragraph (1)
8	and inserting the following:
9	"(1) appoint to a special committee to inves-
10	tigate the facts and allegations contained in the
11	complaint—
12	"(A) himself or herself; and
13	"(B) selected at random—
14	"(i) equal numbers of circuit judges
15	and district judges from other circuits; and
16	"(ii) members of the Commission on
17	Judicial Integrity;"; and
18	(2) in section 354, by adding at the end the fol-
19	lowing:
20	"(c) Disqualification and Additional Mem-
21	BERS.—For purposes of this section, the judicial council
22	of a circuit—
23	"(1) shall not include any member of the spe-
24	cial committee described in section 353; and

1	"(2) shall include at least 1 randomly selected
2	member of the Commission on Judicial Integrity.".
3	(g) Judicial Conference To Report Violations
4	TO CONGRESS.—Section 355 of title 28, United States
5	Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
6	"(c) Violations Reported to Congress.—If the
7	Judicial Conference concurs in the determination of the
8	judicial council, or makes its own determination, that tak-
9	ing an action as described in paragraph $(1)(C)$ and (2)
10	of section 354(a) is appropriate, the Judicial Conference
11	shall submit the determination and the record of the pro-
12	ceedings to Congress.".
13	(h) Disclosure of Information.—Section 360 of
14	title 28, United States Code, is amended—
15	(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
16	paragraph (1), by inserting "and subsections (c) and
17	(d) of this section" after "section 355"; and
18	(2) by adding at the end the following:
19	"(c) Reports.—
20	"(1) Report to judicial conference.—
21	"(A) NOTICE OF COMPLAINTS FILED.—
22	Not later than 30 days after a complaint is
23	filed by an employee or former employee or
24	identified under section 351, the clerk of a

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court of appeals shall notify the Judicial Conference of such complaint.

"(B) REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.— Each special committee appointed under section 353 shall submit the report filed with the judicial council of the circuit under subsection (c) of that section to the Judicial Conference.

"(C) REDACTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTI-FYING INFORMATION.—To the extent practicable, a notification and report under this paragraph shall not include any personally identifying information except for the identity of the judge whose conduct is the subject of the complaint. The identity of the judge may be redacted only with the consent of the complainant.

"(2) Report to congress.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—On a biannual basis, the Judicial Conference shall submit to Congress a report, signed by every member of the Executive Committee, that includes, with respect to complaints under this chapter for each judicial circuit during the previous 180-day period, the following information:

1	"(i) The number, type, and disposi-
2	tion of such complaints.
3	"(ii) A description of actions taken
4	under paragraph (1)(C) and (2) of section
5	354(a).
6	"(iii) A description of voluntary reme-
7	dial or corrective actions taken by judges
8	subject to such complaints.
9	"(iv) Recommendations for policies,
10	practices, and procedures related to such
11	complaints.
12	"(B) Redaction of Personally Identi-
13	FYING INFORMATION.—Reports submitted
14	under this paragraph may not contain the per-
15	sonally identifying information of a complainant
16	or judge.
17	"(d) Disclosure by Complainant Permitted.—
18	Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a
19	complainant or victim of judicial misconduct from dis-
20	closing any information related to the complaint.".
21	(i) Expenses for Complainants and Third Par-
22	TIES.—Section 361 of title 28, United States Code, is
23	amended—
24	(1) by striking "Upon the request" and insert-
25	ing the following:

1	"(a) In General.—Upon the request"; and
2	(2) by adding at the end the following:
3	"(b) Reimbursement.—Upon the request of a com-
4	plainant, the judicial council of a circuit may, if the com-
5	plaint was not finally dismissed under section
6	354(a)(1)(B), recommend that the Director of the Admin-
7	istrative Office of the United States Courts award reim-
8	bursement, from funds appropriated to the Federal judici-
9	ary, for those reasonable expenses, including attorneys'
10	fees, incurred by that complainant during the investigation
11	which would not have been incurred but for the require-
12	ments of this chapter.".
13	SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.
14	Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
15	Act may be construed—
16	(1) to abolish, diminish, or infringe upon any
17	
	right or remedy provided by the Constitution of the
18	right or remedy provided by the Constitution of the United States or any other law;
18 19	
	United States or any other law;
19	United States or any other law; (2) to relieve any person or Government agency
19 20	United States or any other law; (2) to relieve any person or Government agency from liability under the Constitution of the United
19 20 21	United States or any other law; (2) to relieve any person or Government agency from liability under the Constitution of the United States or any other law; or

1 SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

2	In this Act:
3	(1) Commission.—The term "Commission"
4	means the Federal Government Commission on Ju-
5	dicial Integrity established under section 4(a).
6	(2) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered
7	employee'' means—
8	(A) any full-time or part-time employee
9	(including an officer, a former employee, and an
10	applicant for prospective employment) of a
11	court of the United States, an office or agency
12	described in chapter 15 or part III of title 28,
13	United States Code, or a defender organization
14	described in section 3006A(g) of title 18,
15	United States Code; and
16	(B) any individual who carries or carried
17	out an official duty of a court of the United
18	States, an office or agency described in chapter
19	15 or part III of title 28, United States Code,
20	or a defender organization described in section
21	3006A(g) of title 18, United States Code, but
22	who is not paid by such court for carrying out
23	such duties, including an intern.
24	(3) DISABILITY.—The term "disability" means
25	a disability, within the meaning of section 501 of the
26	Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791) and sec-

- tions 102 through 104 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12112–12114).
- 3 (4) WORKPLACE MISCONDUCT.—The term
 4 "workplace misconduct" means misconduct impact5 ing the workplace and employment, including dis6 crimination, harassment, retaliation, sexual assault,
 7 bullying, and conduct prohibited under sections 964
 8 and 965 of title 28, United States Code.

9 SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as are necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

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