

Ensign, ally move to pull Nevada out of 9th Circuit

Las Vegas Review-Journal

February 9, 2007

[STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU](#)

WASHINGTON -- Continuing a more than decade-long quest, Sen. John Ensign of Nevada on Thursday joined another Republican senator in backing legislation to remove their states from the jurisdiction of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The bill by Ensign and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, would create a 12th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that would include Nevada, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

"Because of its enormous and growing size, the 9th Circuit does not have sufficient time to properly handle its caseload," Ensign said in a statement. "For too long, peoples' lives have been on hold because the 9th Circuit is strained beyond its capacity. Justice delayed is justice denied."

In September, the State Bar of Nevada announced its opposition to similar legislation by Ensign, complaining of the financial strain that would result from splitting the 9th Circuit.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is a longtime critic of efforts to split the 9th Circuit, citing Nevada's legal and economic ties to California.