

PUBLIC HEARING ON

Protecting Judicial Privacy Act of 2026, Bill 26-655

Before

**The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Chairwoman
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety**

Council of the District of Columbia

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Room 123, John A. Wilson Building**



Comments of

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Councilmember Pinto and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, the Office of Tax and Revenue (“OTR”) is pleased to provide comments on Bill 26-655, the “Protecting Judicial Privacy Act of 2026” (“Bill”).

In general, the Bill would prohibit government agencies, individuals, businesses, and private associations and organizations from publicly displaying publicly available content that includes a judicial officer's personal information upon receipt of a written request.

OTR recommends some amendments to the Bill. A federal law, the Daniel A. Brinkman Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022, provides similar treatment as the Bill with one main difference.¹ Federal law affords protection from disclosure to family members and others identified as at risk along with judges whereas the Bill applies only to judicial officers. OTR’s comments seek to harmonize the Bill with the federal law as it would make administration of its provisions easier. Furthermore, judicial officers in the District of Columbia and their families would be entitled to the same protection as federal judges under the federal law. I have attached OTR’s recommendations to these comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Bill.

¹ Pub. L. No. 117-263, 136 Stat. 2395, 3458 (2022).

Suggested Amendments

1. Subsection (3) of Section 2 should be amended to read as follows:

“(3) “Immediate family” includes a spouse, parent, sibling, child or any individual to whom a judicial officer stands in loco parentis, or any other individual living at the same home address as the judicial officer.”

2. Subsection (8) of Section 2 should be amended to read as follows:

“(8) “Written request” means written notice signed by a judicial officer or a representative of the judicial officer’s employer requesting a government agency, person, business or association to refrain from posting or displaying publicly available content that includes the judicial officer or the judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information.

3. Subsection (a) of Section 3 should be amended to read as follows:

“(a) A government agency shall not publicly display publicly available content that includes a judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information, provided that the government agency has received a written request in accordance with this act that it refrain from disclosing the judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information.”

4. Subsection (b) of Section 3 should be amended to read as follows:

“(b) After a government agency has received a written request, that agency shall remove the judicial officer or the judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information from publicly available content within 5 business days. After the government agency has removed the judicial officer or the judicial officer’s immediate family’s publicly available content, the agency shall not publicly post or display the information and the judicial officer or the judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information shall be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act unless the government agency has received consent from the judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family to make the personal information available to the public.

5. Subsection (c) of Section 3 should be amended to read as follows:

“(c) If a government agency fails to comply with a written request to refrain from disclosing personal information, the judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family may bring an action seeking injunctive or declaratory relief in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.”

6. Subsection (a) of Section 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“(a) No government agency, person, business, association, or other private organization shall be found to have violated any provision of this act if the judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family fails to submit a written request calling for the protection of the judicial officer or judicial officer’s immediate family’s personal information.

7. Subsection (b) of Section 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“(b) A written request shall be valid if:

(1) The judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family sends a written request directly to the government agency on a form devised by the government agency, person, business, association, or other private organization; or

(2) If the Mayor establishes a policy and procedure for a judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family to file the written request with the Mayor to notify government agencies, the judicial officer may send the written request to the Mayor.

(A) Each year, the Mayor shall provide the Council with information on the number of judicial officers or judicial officer's immediate family who have submitted a written request to the Mayor under this act.”

8. Subsection (d) of Section 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“(d)(1) A judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family's written request shall specify what personal information shall be maintained private.

(2) If a judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family wishes to identify a secondary residence as a home address as that term is defined in this act, the designation shall be made in the written request on a form devised by the government agency.”

9. Subsection (e) of Section 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“(e) A judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family's written request is valid until the judicial officer or immediate family provides the government agency, person, business, association, or other private organization with written permission to release the private information.”

10. Subsection (f) of Section 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“(f) A judicial officer or judicial officer's immediate family's written request expires on the death of the judicial officer.”