EQUAL TIME

Let voters, not judges, decide issue

By JONATHAN HAYDEN

For decades, the nation's political leaders have agonized over the balance of power in the federal courts — a balance they felt was too tilted toward judges. Agitation has been growing to redress that imbalance by creating a federal court of appeals specifically to decide complex cases that the Supreme Court has declined to hear.

A lot of the noise has been about the federal appeals courts and judges. But the potential for a new federal appeals court goes far beyond the courts and the judges. The idea is to set up a new court that would hear appeals from the lower federal courts in the District of Columbia and from the federal courts of appeals in the Southeast and Southwest. The new court would be a powerful addition to the existing federal courts, which are already clogged with cases and growing in number.

The new court would be housed in a new building in the District of Columbia. It would have a capacity of about 1,000 cases a year, which would be enough to handle the expected increase in cases over the next 10 years. The court would be staffed by a new chief judge and 10 new judges, plus about 20 new clerical employees.

A number of Democratic lawmakers in Congress have been discussing the idea of a new court, and President Barack Obama has made it a priority. But the idea faces a number of hurdles, not the least of which is the Republican-controlled Senate, which is unlikely to confirm any Democratic nominees to the new court.

Assessment of Iraq strong on plus side

By PATRICK HEIBER

The U.S. military is working hard to improve the security situation in Iraq, but it is not yet clear whether the effort will bear fruit in the long run.

The situation in Iraq remains precarious, with the government facing a number of challenges. The country is still struggling to rebuild after the war, and the government has yet to establish effective control over many areas. The situation is also complicated by the ongoing conflict between the government and the Taliban.

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Road project a promising first step

By THOMAS HOGAN

The opening of the new road project in the area is a promising first step in improving the quality of life for residents of the community.

The road project was funded by a combination of federal and local funds, and it is expected to be completed within the next year. The new road will provide a more efficient and safer route for commuters and will also help to reduce traffic congestion in the area.

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