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The Challenge to the Judiciary of the Nineties: Managing Appeals in the Federal Courts

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THE CHALLENGE TO THE JUDICIARY OF THE NINETIES: MANAGING APPEALS IN THE FEDERAL COURTS

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The overwhelming number of litigants populating American courtrooms today has placed a significant burden upon the judiciary to produce well-thought, reasoned decisions in light of a rapidly increasing caseload. In effect, it can be argued that such an increase in caseload has restricted judges from fully effectuating their duties and, more drastically, has led to a bureaucratization of the federal court system. Consequently, there has emerged a changing public perception with respect to the concept of justice and the federal judicial system--a change having dangerous implications.

With my primary focus at the federal appellate level, I will examine the nature and the scope of this problem as well as the attempts which have been made to improve the situation. Finally, I will formulate my own proposal based on the findings of my research for resolution of the appellate dilemma.