


BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

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03-AP-035

Request to Testify
1/26/04

December 9, 2003

Peter G. McCabe, Secretary
Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure
of the Judicial Conference of the United States
Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building
1 Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. McCabe:

I write to request permission to testify at the public hearing on Appellate Rules to be held January 26, 2004 in Washington, D.C. I would like to testify on behalf of the Brennan Center regarding proposed new Rule 32.1 (Citation of Judicial Dispositions).

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law unites scholarship and legal advocacy in support of inclusive and effective democracy. My testimony would stem from an analysis of federal courts' no-citation rules, which I undertook as part of the Center's Fair Courts Project. That project focuses on preserving judicial independence and accountability, and also includes efforts toward improving judicial selection processes, combating attacks on judges, and increasing diversity on the bench. More information about the Brennan Center is available at the Center's website www.brennancenter.org.

I spoke this week with Staff Attorney Ishida, who suggested that I immediately send this request to testify. I will follow up with a written copy of my testimony by the first week in January. Unless I hear otherwise, I will assume that I should limit my remarks to 15 minutes. Of course if more drastic time limits are necessary I will conform my hearing testimony to whatever length you deem desirable. I understand that I may submit more lengthy written comments by February 16, 2004.

Please contact me by phone (212) 992-8639, email: jessie.allen@nyu.edu, or at the above address to let me know whether I may testify and, of course, to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about my testimony.

Sincerely,


Jessie Allen
Associate Counsel