



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Division

05-CV- 011

Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

December 14, 2005

Mr. Peter G. McCabe
Secretary
Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. McCabe:

The United States Department of Justice appreciates this opportunity to comment on the February 2005 Preliminary Draft of Proposed Style Revision of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("the Style Draft"). The Style Draft represents a careful and thoughtful analysis of the existing text of the Civil Rules, and is the product of an intensive and painstaking review of the ramifications of making textual changes. In our judgment, the revisions should help simplify and clarify the text of many of the Rules so that practitioners can better understand and apply them. As the Committee is aware, both the Criminal Rules and the Appellate Rules have experienced a similar restyling process. We understand from consultation with attorneys in our Criminal Division and in our Civil Division's Appellate Staff, who have practiced under these Rules both before and after their restyling, that those changes have been positive and beneficial. The Department strongly supports the current initiative to restyle the Civil Rules and believes that the Committee has done valuable work.

We thank the Committee for this opportunity to share our views. If you have any further questions, or if there is anything the Department can do to assist the Committee in its important work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Keisler
Assistant Attorney General