



COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL LAW  
of the  
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
United States District Court  
500 West Pike Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

13-CR-A

Honorable Tena Campbell  
Honorable Curtis Lynn Collier  
Honorable Raymond W. Gruender  
Honorable Jeffrey R. Howard  
Honorable Ellen Segal Huvelle  
Honorable Sterling Johnson, Jr.  
Honorable C. Darnell Jones II  
Honorable William T. Lawrence  
Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez  
Honorable Franklin L. Noel  
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**Honorable Irene M. Keeley, Chair**

October 7, 2013

Honorable Reena Raggi  
United States Court of Appeals  
Emanuel Celler Federal Building  
225 Cadman Plaza East, Room 704S  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1818

Dear Judge Raggi:

I am writing on behalf of the Criminal Law Committee to ask that the Criminal Rules Advisory Committee consider a request from Judge Clay D. Land (GA-M) to clarify Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Specifically, Judge Land has suggested that the rule be revised to allow a judge to decide whether contemporaneous reporting, such as “tweeting,” should be permitted during a judicial proceeding. As Judge Land explained in *United States v. Shelnett*, 2009 WL 3681827 (M.D. Ga 2009), the prohibition on “broadcasting” contained in Rule 53 includes a prohibition on “tweeting.” Despite his decision, Judge Land does not agree with the result, and it is possible that his views are shared by others. Accordingly, we would ask the Criminal Rules Advisory Committee to consider this matter. If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Irene M. Keeley

cc: Honorable Clay D. Land  
Mr. Jonathan Rose  
Mr. Matthew Rowland