

From: Andrew Straw
To: RulesCommittee Secretary
Cc: Andrew Straw
Subject: FRCP & FRAP Rule Suggestions Re Service and PACER and Court Document Unique URL Links
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:47:18 AM
Importance: High

RE: FRCP & FRAP Rule Suggestions Re Service and PACER and Court Document Unique URL Links

Dear Rules Committee Secretary,

I am a disabled member of the bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I am also in poverty and often receive *IFP* status to proceed with my own lawsuits for myself. This poverty even when I am a lawyer is largely due to discrimination I experience from government due to my Camp LeJeune illnesses.

I write to suggest changes to the service rules under **FRCP** and **FRAP** as well as a suggestion to change the rules to allow for URL linking of court documents and access for free.

EMAIL SERVICE ADDRESS FOR USA

My first suggestion is that U.S. DOJ and all federal agencies be required to have a **service email address** that will accept filings from courts under CM/ECF and service from the public regarding any lawsuit against the United States.

There is no reason ever to require any court participant to use paper or the mails to do service.

Summons and complaints should be served not by a plaintiff but by the Court to the DOJ email address. This will streamline all cases wherein the United States is a defendant.

Every court should be required, moreover, to either allow *pro se* individuals to efile with CM/ECF or provide an email address to which *pro se* filings can be made.

If no DOJ lawyer appears in a case with the United States as defendant, any filing to the Court must be served by CM/ECF to the general service address at U.S. DOJ.

URL LINKS FOR DOCUMENTS IN FEDERAL COURT CASES

Further, all documents open to the public on PACER should be accessible for free by anyone.

Along with free PACER access should go assigning a unique URL to every document so that references to these documents can be made in filings with the URLs embedded. This makes it easy for both the Court and litigants to refer to other documents without having to dig around and waste time. A **URL link** is the absolute easiest way to refer to another court document.

While PACER does not allow this at this time, I use CourtListener.com to refer to documents because that FREE nonprofit service allows a person to view a case docket at the federal level for free and link directly to any document that was filed in the case, so long as someone has viewed the document before on PACER and made it available.

You can see examples of this in my Camp LeJeune lawsuit and appeal:

<https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/67939552/andrew-straw-v-united-states/>

	<p>Andrew Straw v. United States, 23-2156 - CourtListener.com</p> <p>Docket for Andrew Straw v. United States, 23-2156 — Brought to you by Free Law Project, a non-profit dedicated to creating high quality open legal information.</p> <p>www.courtlistener.com</p>
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You can see from my brief in the appeal how I make references to docket entries with a link to the very court-stamped documents available for free in this Court Listener service.

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.ca4.173243/gov.uscourts.ca4.173243.7.0.pdf>

If it is too hard for PACER to provide this document URL service, PACER should provide its full database of documents to **Court Listener**, which will host and provide the documents at no cost either to the government or any litigant.

Court Listener is how PACER should be run.

Thank you for considering these updates to FRCP and FRAP regarding service, as well as PACER improvements and document URL links.

Sincerely,



Andrew U. D. Straw