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Southern District of Ohio
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Chambers of
Sandra S. Beckwith
Chief Judge

July 7, 2005

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

RE: Proposed Style Revision of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure


Dear Mr. McCabe:

Insofar as the style changes are concerned, it seems the colon usage is exceedingly abundant, but not to the distraction of the reader seeking only the substance of the Rules.

On a side note, the change to Rule 56 granting the courts discretion to deny summary judgment even though it may appear that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact will be helpful. Quite often the tedious process of writing an extensive order to resolve a summary judgment motion which is obviously meritless or highly questionable proves to be a waste of valuable judicial resources. I have recently concluded that summary denials or benign neglect of motions for summary judgment may serve a useful purpose in moving on to earlier more efficient trials. Better to spend two days in trial rather than a week writing a scholarly dissertation on a fairly mundane case is my new mantra.

Thanks to the Committee for its fine work on the present project.

Sincerely,


Sandra S. Beckwith
Chief United States District Judge

SSB/gs