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April 23, 1996

Clerk of the Court
Florida Supreme Court
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1926

RE: Comment to Proposed Rules for Electronic Filings

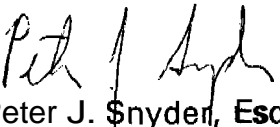
Dear Sir:

I applaud the Supreme Court's efforts in considering rules for electronic filing of documents in the Florida Court System. Such rules will keep our judicial system in the forefront of technology. However, I would point out the proposed rules require reproduction of original signatures as opposed to digital certificates. This will require much greater storage requirements and transmission times. Hence, the cost of implementation may be greater than if digital certificates were permitted. I would suggest that either reproduction of original signatures or digital certificates be acceptable under the proposed rules. As doubtless you are aware, the Legislature is currently considering a bill making digital certificates "legal" signatures.

Although I welcome electronic filing, I would point out that filing documents with the Court represents less than half of the problem. Attorney to attorney service of documents is generally the more burdensome task for the practitioner. In that vein, it would seem logical that Rule 1.080(b) should also be revised to allow electronic service between attorneys. The Court may also want to consider revising that part of the rule that deals with service by facsimile.

If I can be of any further assistance to the Court in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Peter J. Snyder, Esq.

PJS:pc

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SID J. WHITE
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CLERK, SUPREME COURT
By _____
Chief Deputy Clerk

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