

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

**IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE  
FLORIDA RULES OF JUDICIAL  
ADMINISTRATION –  
RULE 2.451  
(USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES)**

**CASE NO.: SC12-764**

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**RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS OF  
J. THOMAS MCGRADY, CHIEF JUDGE OF THE SIXTH CIRCUIT  
AND R. BLAISE TRETTIS**

The Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, through its Chair, Alexandra V. Rieman, and The Florida Bar, through John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director, respond to the comments of the Sixth Circuit and R. Blaise Trettis, Executive Assistant Public Defender, as follows:

At the request of the Court, the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee reviewed the use of electronic devices in the courtroom and published a proposed rule on January 1, 2011, and a revised proposal on September 1, 2011. Mr. Trettis filed comments with regard to the second proposal that are similar to his current comments. A Rules of Judicial Administration Subcommittee and thereafter the full Committee considered Mr. Trettis' initial comments. The Committee determined that the proposed rule achieves an appropriate balance between an individual's use of electronic devices and preserving the right of litigants to a fair trial and declined to make changes to the proposed rule in response to the

comments. The Rules of Judicial Administration Committee has no further comment.

Chief Judge J. Thomas McGrady comments in support of rule 2.451 and clearly sets forth the needs of the judicial branch for a rule with regard to use of electronic devices.

WHEREFORE, the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee requests the Court adopt the proposed rule as an appropriate balance between the pervasive use of electronic devices in today's society and the need to ensure decorum in the courthouse and fair trials.

Respectfully submitted on \_\_\_\_\_.

/s/  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify this Response to the Comments of J. Thomas McGrady, Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit and R. Blaise Trettis was served by email upon the addresses below on this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2012.

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