



Law Office of the COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

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Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee
222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Sent via email to RulesCommittee@illinoiscourts.gov.

Re: Support for Proposals 25-01 and 25-02, Amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 13 and 23

Dear Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed changes to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 13 and 23. The Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender ("the Law Office") represents more than 80% of people accused of felonies in Cook County, and we are appointed in over 70,000 cases annually. We write to register our support for two of the proposed amendments: Proposals 25-01 and 25-02.

Proposal 25-01: Amendment to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 13(a)(8). The proposed change creates new subsection (8) that would explicitly require an attorney's appearance in a civil or criminal case to continue until the time for filing an appeal from the final judgment on behalf of the client expires. Among the constitutional obligations towards their clients in criminal proceedings, trial attorneys are required to effectively communicate to their clients the right to appeal. This proposed amendment can help provide clarity to trial and appellate practitioners alike. The Law Office's Assistant Public Defenders are well-suited to provide this information and representation to their clients through the time for filing an appeal from a final judgment, and we support this codification of that representation.

Proposal 25-02: Amendment to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 23. The proposed amendment eliminates the requirement that attorneys must attach copies of cited Rule 23 orders. Rule 23 orders are readily available on the Supreme Court's website and in digital caselaw search engines. The Law Office believes that there is no longer a need to furnish copies for opposing counsel or the courts and supports this amendment.

For these reasons, we urge the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee to adopt the amendments submitted under Proposals 25-01 and 25-02. The Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender is happy to answer any additional questions the Committee may have and can be reached at 312-603-0600 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Sharone R. Mitchell, Jr.
Cook County Public Defender

