

# COURTS, LAWYERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE SECTION



The District of Columbia Bar

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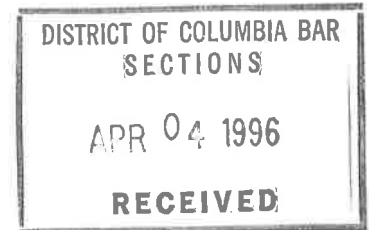
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April 3, 1996

Mr. Duane B. Delaney  
Clerk of the Court  
Superior Court of the District of Columbia  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131



Dear Mr. Delaney:

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, to the Chair of the Committee on Court Rules and Legislation of the Section on Courts, Lawyers and the Administration of Justice of the District of Columbia Bar. We appreciated copies of the Administrative Orders issued by the Chief Judge in 1994-95 affecting lawyers and their practice, and the information that the vast majority of these order affect only internal court procedures.

The District of Columbia Bar is the integrated bar for the District of Columbia. Among the Bar's sections is the Section on Courts, Lawyers and the Administration of Justice. The Section has a standing Committee on Court Rules and Legislation, whose responsibilities include serving as a clearinghouse for comments on proposed changes to court rules. Comments submitted by the Section represent only its views, and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors.

It is our understanding that the Court does not generally publish Administrative Orders or otherwise make them generally available to the public or the bar. We agree that there is no need to publish Administrative Orders that address matters pertinent only to the internal operations of the Court and its personnel.

However, Administrative Orders that go beyond court housekeeping matters and affect the conduct and decisions of litigants and lawyers should be made available to them. For example, Administrative Order No. 95-11 (issued on April 11, 1995), established new procedures relating to access to juror information and the jury selection process. We believe that many lawyers practicing in the Court were not and are not aware of the existence and content of this Administrative Order.

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We respectfully urge the Court to make known -- for example, through publication in the Daily Washington Law Reporter -- Administrative Orders that modify old practices, or create new procedures, that affect litigants, lawyers, or the public generally.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anthony C. Epstein.*

Anthony C. Epstein  
Carol A. Fortine  
Cochairs - Courts, Lawyers, and  
Administration of Justice  
Section

James R. Klimaski  
Chair - Court Rules and  
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