IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, FLORIDA RULES OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION, FLORIDA RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, FLORIDA PROBATE RULES, FLORIDA SMALL CLAIMS RULES, FLORIDA RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE, FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE, FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE —ELECTRONIC FILING

CASE NO. SC11-399

JOINT COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO COMMENT OF COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

John G. Crabtree, Chair, Appellate Court Rules Committee, Donald E. Christopher, Chair, Civil Procedure Rules Committee, Robert Eschenfelder, Chair, Code and Rules of Evidence Committee, Robert T. Strain, Chair, Criminal Procedure Rules Committee, Steven P. Combs, Chair, Family Law Rules Committee, William W. Booth, Chair, Juvenile Court Rules Committee, Jeffrey S. Goethe, Chair, Probate Rules Committee, Katherine E. Giddings, Chair, Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, Michele A. Cavallaro, Chair, Small Claims Rules Committee, John J. Anastasio, Chair, Traffic Court Rules Committee, and John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director, The Florida Bar, file this Joint Response to Comment of the Courthouse News Service.

The other comments filed in this case all concern the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and will be responded to separately by the Criminal Procedure Rules Committee.

The Rules Committees have reviewed and considered the Courthouse News Service's comment. The Committees agree that, as a general matter of policy the Court's rulemaking function should not diminish the ability of citizens or the media to have access to court records. However, the concerns raised in the comment, which focus on substantive issues regarding the media's ability to gain timely and low-cost access to filings after documents are e-filed, are beyond the scope of procedures for e-filing, which the Rules Committees were directed to formulate, and thus we take no specific position on the comment.

Respectfully submitted on this ____ day of _____, 2011, by

_____

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing has been sent, via U.S. Mail, to Justice Ricky Polston, Liaison for the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Liaison to the Appellate Court Technology Committee and Florida Courts Technology Commission, Deborah Meyer, Director, Central Staff, at the Supreme Court of Florida, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925; and on behalf of Courthouse News Service, to Sachs Sax Kaplan, P.L., Robert Rivas, 310 W. College Ave. 3d Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1406 and Rachel F. Matteo-Boehm, Holme Roberts & Owen LLP, 560 Mission St., 25th Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105-2994, this ____ day of _____, 2011.

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Jodi Jennings, Liaison
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