

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

GENERAL ORDER 09 - 015

**USE OF TEXT-BASED TECHNOLOGY TO RECEIVE AND SEND TEXT MESSAGES
ON HANDHELD DEVICES IN COURTROOMS**

FOR THE PURPOSES OF protecting the freedom of the press and the right of the general public to attend and have access to information about Court proceedings that are open to the public; and

FOR THE FURTHER PURPOSES OF protecting the right of all litigants who come before the Court to the fair and impartial administration of justice in an appropriate Courtroom setting that is free from undue distractions and disturbances;

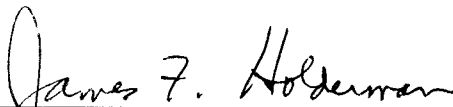
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any Judge of the Court may, in his or her discretion, permit the use of text-based technology to receive and send text messages on handheld devices by persons in the public area of the Courtroom during Court proceedings, so long as such use of text-based technology does not include the use of any photography, broadcasting, radio, telephone or other audio transmission, or any audio or visual recording or transmission in violation of Local Rule 83.1(c), and does not emit sounds or otherwise disturb or distract from Court proceedings; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Judge of the Court has the discretion to determine whether the use of a handheld device for purposes of sending and receiving text messages constitutes an undue disturbance or distraction or otherwise should be prohibited in his or her Courtroom at any time; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Marshal remains authorized to enforce Local Rule 83.1 in accordance with the procedures set forth therein.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT



Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 24th day of June, 2009.