April 11, 2022

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515  

Dear Madam Speaker:

I have the honor to submit to the Congress the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States pursuant to Section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code.

Accompanying the amended rules are the following materials that were submitted to the Court for its consideration pursuant to Section 331 of Title 28, United States Code: a transmittal letter to the Court dated October 18, 2021; a redline version of the rules with committee notes; an excerpt from the September 2021 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference of the United States; and an excerpt from the June 2021 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Sincerely,

/s/ John G. Roberts, Jr.
April 11, 2022

Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
President, United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam President:

I have the honor to submit to the Congress the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States pursuant to Section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code.

Accompanying the amended rules are the following materials that were submitted to the Court for its consideration pursuant to Section 331 of Title 28, United States Code: a transmittal letter to the Court dated October 18, 2021; a redline version of the rules with committee notes; an excerpt from the September 2021 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference of the United States; and an excerpt from the June 2021 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Sincerely,

/s/ John G. Roberts, Jr.
April 11, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ORDERED:

1. The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure are amended to include amendments to Rules 25 and 42.

[See infra pp. __ __ __.]

2. The foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure shall take effect on December 1, 2022, and shall govern in all proceedings in appellate cases thereafter commenced and, insofar as just and practicable, all proceedings then pending.

3. THE CHIEF JUSTICE is authorized to transmit to the Congress the foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure in accordance with the provisions of Section 2074 of Title 28, United States Code.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rule 25. Filing and Service

(a) Filing.

* * * * *

(5) Privacy Protection. An appeal in a case whose privacy protection was governed by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is governed by the same rule on appeal. In all other proceedings, privacy protection is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 governs when an extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal case. The provisions on remote electronic access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for review of a benefits decision of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act.

*****
Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal

* * * * *

(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.

(1) Stipulated Dismissal. The circuit clerk must dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due.

(2) Appellant's Motion to Dismiss. An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant's motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

(3) Other Relief. A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.
(c) **Court Approval.** This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration.

(d) **Criminal Cases.** A court may, by local rule, impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.
MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Justice of the United States
   Associate Justices of the Supreme Court

From: Judge Roslynn R. Mauskopf

RE: TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

By direction of the Judicial Conference of the United States, pursuant to the authority conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 331, I transmit for the Court’s consideration proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, which have been approved by the Judicial Conference. The Judicial Conference recommends that the amendments be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress pursuant to law.

For your assistance in considering the proposed amendments, I am transmitting (i) clean and blackline copies of the amended rules along with committee notes; (ii) an excerpt from the September 2021 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference; and (iii) an excerpt from the June 2021 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Attachments
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE¹

Rule 25. Filing and Service

(a) Filing.

* * * * *

(5) Privacy Protection. An appeal in a case whose privacy protection was governed by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is governed by the same rule on appeal. In all other proceedings, privacy protection is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 governs when an extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal

¹ New material is underlined; matter to be omitted is lined through.
case. The provisions on remote electronic access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for review of a benefits decision of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act.

* * * * *

Committee Note

There are close parallels between the Social Security Act and the Railroad Retirement Act. One difference, however, is that judicial review in Social Security cases is initiated in the district courts, while judicial review in Railroad Retirement cases is initiated directly in the courts of appeals. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 protects privacy in Social Security cases by limiting remote electronic access. The amendment extends those protections to Railroad Retirement cases.
Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal

* * * * *

(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.

(1) **Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk may
    dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties
    file a signed dismissal agreement specifying
    how costs are to be paid and pay any court
    fees that are due. But no mandate or other
    process may issue without a court order.

(2) **Appellant’s Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal
    may be dismissed on the appellant’s motion
    on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by
    the court.

(3) **Other Relief.** A court order is required for
    any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond
    the dismissal of an appeal—including
    approving a settlement, vacating an action of
the district court or an administrative agency,
or remanding the case to either of them.

(c) Court Approval. This Rule 42 does not alter the
legal requirements governing court approval of a
settlement, payment, or other consideration.

(d) Criminal Cases. A court may, by local rule, impose
requirements to confirm that a defendant has
consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal
case.

Committee Note

The amendment restores the requirement, in effect
prior to the restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate
Procedure, that the circuit clerk dismiss an appeal if all
parties so agree. It also clarifies that the fees that must be
paid are court fees, not attorney’s fees. The rule does not
alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a
settlement, payment, or other consideration. See, e.g.,
Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) (requiring district court approval).

The amendment replaces old terminology and
clarifies that any relief beyond dismissal of an appeal—
including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—
requires a court order. Pursuant to Rule 20, Rule 42(b)
applies to petitions for review and applications to enforce an
agency order. For Rule 42(b) to function in such cases,
“appeal” should be understood to include a petition for review or application to enforce an agency order.

The amendment permits local rules that impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.
REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES:

* * * *

FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rules Recommended for Approval and Transmission

The Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules recommended for final approval proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42.

Rule 25 (Filing and Service)

The proposed amendment to Rule 25(a)(5) concerning privacy protection was published for public comment in August 2020. It would extend to petitions for review under the Railroad Retirement Act the same restrictions on remote electronic access to electronic files that Civil Rule 5.2(c) imposes in immigration cases and Social Security review actions. While Railroad Retirement Act review proceedings are similar to Social Security review actions, the Railroad Retirement Act review petitions are filed directly in the courts of appeals instead of the district courts. The same limits on remote electronic access are appropriate for Railroad Retirement Act proceedings, so the proposed amendment to Rule 25(a)(5) applies the provisions in Civil Rule 5.2(c)(1) and (2) to such proceedings.

NOTICE

NO RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED HEREIN REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE UNLESS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.
Rule 42 (Voluntary Dismissal)

The proposed amendment to Rule 42 was published for public comment in August 2019. At its June 2020 meeting, the Standing Committee queried how the proposed amendment might interact with local circuit rules that require evidence of a criminal defendant’s consent to dismissal of an appeal. The Standing Committee withheld approval pending further study, and the Advisory Committee subsequently examined a number of local rules designed to ensure that a defendant has consented to dismissal. These local rules take a variety of approaches such as requiring a personally signed statement from the defendant or a statement from counsel about the defendant’s knowledge and consent. The Advisory Committee added a new Rule 42(d) to the amendment to explicitly authorize such local rules.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee’s recommendation that the proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42 be approved and transmitted to the Judicial Conference.

Recommendation: That the Judicial Conference approve the proposed amendments to Appellate Rules 25 and 42 . . . and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law.

* * * * *

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Bates, Chair

Jesse M. Furman
Daniel C. Girard
Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.
Frank M. Hull
William J. Kayatta, Jr.
Peter D. Keisler
William K. Kelley
Carolyn B. Kuhl
Patricia A. Millett
Lisa O. Monaco
Gene E.K. Pratter
Kosta Stojilkovic
Jennifer G. Zipps
MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable John D. Bates, Chair
   Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

FROM: Judge Jay Bybee, Chair
       Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

RE: Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

DATE: June 1, 2021

I. Introduction

The Advisory Committee on the Appellate Rules met on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via Teams. The draft minutes from the meeting are attached to this report.

The Committee approved proposed amendments previously published for public comment for which it now seeks final approval. One is a proposed amendment to Rule 42, dealing with stipulated dismissals. A second is a proposed amendment to Rule 25, dealing with privacy protections in Railroad Retirement Act cases. (Part II of this report.)
II. Action Items for Final Approval After Public Comment

A. Rule 42—Voluntary Dismissal

The proposed amendment to Rule 42 was published for public comment in August 2019. At the June 2020 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Committee presented it for final approval. The Standing Committee was concerned about how the proposed amendment might interact with local circuit rules that require evidence of a criminal defendant’s consent to dismissal. It decided to withhold approval until local rules were examined.

The Committee examined several local rules that are designed to be sure that a defendant has consented to dismissal. These local rules take a variety of approaches, such as requiring a signed statement from the defendant personally or requiring a statement from counsel about the defendant’s knowledge and consent. The Committee added a sentence to guard against the risk that these local rules might be superseded by the proposed amendment, and now seeks final approval of the following:

Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal

*** ***

(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.

(1) Stipulated Dismissal. The circuit clerk may must dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due. But no mandate or other process may issue without a court order.

(2) Appellant’s Motion to Dismiss. An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant’s motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

(3) Other Relief. A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

(c) Court Approval. This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration.
(d) Criminal Cases. A court may, by local rule, impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.

Committee Note

The amendment restores the requirement, in effect prior to the restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, that the circuit clerk dismiss an appeal if all parties so agree. It also clarifies that the fees that must be paid are court fees, not attorney’s fees. The Rule does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration. See, e.g., F.R.Civ.P. 23(e) (requiring district court approval).

The amendment replaces old terminology and clarifies that any relief beyond dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—requires a court order. Pursuant to Rule 20, Rule 42(b) applies to petitions for review and applications to enforce an agency order. For Rule 42(b) to function in such cases, “appeal” should be understood to include a petition for review or application to enforce an agency order.

The amendment permits local rules that impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.

B. Rule 25—Railroad Retirement Act

The proposed amendment to Rule 25 was published for public comment in August 2020. It would extend the privacy protection now given to Social Security and immigration cases to Railroad Retirement Act cases. The reason for the amendment is that Railroad Retirement Act benefit cases are very similar to Social Security Act cases. But unlike Social Security Act cases, Railroad Retirement Act cases are brought directly to the courts of appeals.

The Committee replaced both the phrase “remote access” in the text of the proposed amendment and the phrase “electronic access” in the Committee Note with the phrase “remote electronic access.” With this change, the Committee seeks final approval of the following:
Rule 25. Filing and Service

(a) Filing

********

(5) Privacy Protection. An appeal in a case whose privacy protection was governed by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is governed by the same rule on appeal. In all other proceedings, privacy protection is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 governs when an extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal case. The provisions on remote electronic access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for review of a benefits decision of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act.

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Committee Note

There are close parallels between the Social Security Act and the Railroad Retirement Act. One difference, however, is that judicial review in Social Security cases is initiated in the district courts, while judicial review in Railroad Retirement cases is initiated directly in the courts of appeals. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 protects privacy in Social Security cases by limiting remote electronic access. The amendment extends those protections to Railroad Retirement cases.

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