IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
	*	MISC. NO. 07-150 (JAF)
COURTROOM APPEARANCES BY COUNSEL	*	
AND GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS	*	
	*	

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SAN JUAN, P.R.

STANDING ORDER

Members of the Bar must understand that court appearances on behalf of clients is serious business that intertwines three basic abilities and obligations. First, counsel should master the facts. As to those facts, attorneys should fully understand the applicable law. Thirdly, forensic practice requires dominion of ethical postulates and courtroom etiquette rules.

Regarding the last, we notice a prevalent practice that is totally unacceptable. Rather than sitting inside the courtroom waiting for a case to be called, some counsel remain outside courtrooms and expect to be called when the judge is ready to hear their case. This, coupled with the prevalent tardiness in court appearances by more than a few members of the bar, demeans the seriousness of court proceedings.

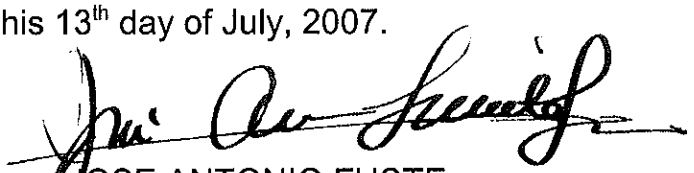
Effective today, the Court will not wait for tardy counsel and will not stop proceedings to find errant counsel in the courthouse. Sanctions will be taken against counsel, which includes government attorneys who do not comply with this standing order.

Lastly, the Court recognizes its own obligation to start proceedings on time. Any mayor disruption in the Court's calendar will be notified to participating attorneys through

the courtroom deputy clerk, who will inform counsel when there is a delay in court proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 13th day of July, 2007.



JOSE ANTONIO FUSTE
CHIEF JUDGE