



Chief Judge Priscilla Owen  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
600 South Maestri Place, Suite 115  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3408  
*Delivered via e-mail to Lyle\_Cayce@ca5.uscourts.gov*

Oct 11, 2019

Dear Chief Judge Owen:

We, the undersigned, are the executive director of Fix the Court, the President of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists, the executive director of the Radio Television Digital News Association, and the executive director Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press respectively.

We write today to urge the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to livestream the audio of 17-70008, *Charles Thompson v. Lorie Davis*, to be argued at 11:00 a.m. on October 21, 2019.

We are greatly appreciative of the Fifth Circuit's same-day audio policy but believe that the public's significant interest in the issues of capital punishment presented in this case, as well as the importance of transparency and public access, merit live audio here. We hope the Fifth Circuit joins other Circuits in providing live-audio access for cases of national import.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

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| Cheryl Smith<br><i>President</i><br>Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists<br>Dallas, Texas | Gabe Roth<br><i>Executive Director</i><br>Fix the Court<br>Washington, D.C. |
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| Dan Shelley<br><i>Executive Director</i><br>Radio Television Digital News Association<br>Washington, D.C. | Bruce Brown<br><i>Executive Director</i><br>Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press<br>Washington, D.C. |
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**The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)** is the largest organization for journalists of color in the nation, and provides career development as well as educational and other support to its members worldwide.

**Fix the Court (FTC)** is a national, nonpartisan organization that advocates for non-ideological "fixes" that would make the federal courts, and primarily the U.S. Supreme Court, more open and more accountable to the American people.

**The Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA)** is the world's largest professional organization devoted exclusively to broadcast and digital journalism. Founded as a grassroots organization in 1946, RTDNA's mission is to promote and protect responsible journalism. RTDNA defends the First Amendment rights of electronic journalists throughout the country, honors outstanding work in the profession through the Edward R. Murrow Awards and provides members with training to encourage ethical standards, newsroom leadership and industry innovation

**The Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press (RCFP)** is a national non-profit whose attorneys provide free legal services for journalists and has long sought greater transparency at the courts for the benefit of the public.