



United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2015

The D.C. Circuit Fights Internet Link Rot

Chief Judge Merrick Garland today announced the Circuit's new program to fight 'link rot':

"This Circuit's opinions frequently contain citations to web pages. Unfortunately, after a period of time, some of those web pages cease to exist or become altered -- making a citation inaccessible or indiscernible.

"The Circuit's chief carpenter, Circuit Librarian Pat Michalowskij, has designed a solution to fix this 'rot.' Beginning in September, the Library and Clerk's Office will capture any web page cited in a Circuit opinion, convert it into a PDF document, and post the archived document in the electronic docket for the case. The electronic docket will, as always, be available to the public through the Court's PACER system.

"So, the next time link rot makes it hard for a member of the public -- or for a judge -- to determine what a judge was relying on for a certain point, the answer will be just a few clicks away."