

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V. CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 3:07CR00192-B-A

RICHARD F. "DICKIE" SCRUGGS;
DAVID ZACHARY SCRUGGS;
SIDNEY A. BACKSTROM;
TIMOTHY R. BALDUCCI; AND
STEVEN A. PATTERSON

ORDER

Came on to be considered this day the motion of Tom Freeland, who advises the court that he is a writer for the blog *Folo* and who writes under the title of NMC, requesting that he be allowed press privileges in viewing the presentencing letters concerning the defendants in the above styled and numbered cause.

Mr. Freeland is known to the court as a practicing attorney of high reputation and competence but he does not profess to be a member of any traditional press corps. If the court allowed all persons who write commentaries on blogs to take their place with the traditional, legitimate press in viewing letters such as the ones under discussion herein and sitting in the seats reserved for the press, it is feared there would be not enough room in the conference room of the court for all those requesting access to the letters under consideration herein or enough seats reserved in the courtroom for the press and bloggers. The court is aware of the debate in some circles concerning the legitimacy and status of bloggers in relation to the traditional new media.

The court has been advised by readers of the blog *Folo* that the movant herein has been exceptionally thorough, energetic and accurate in his writings on this case and the court will and does hereby make an exception for his status as a blogger and allows him equal credentials with

the traditional press on this matter.

It is, therefore, **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that Tom Freeland's Motion for Access to Presentencing Letters Concerning Defendants is **GRANTED**. The movant herein may examine the requested information in the office of the court clerk on Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

This, the 24th day of June, 2008.

/s/ Neal Biggers

NEAL B. BIGGERS, JR.
SENIOR U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE