

Subject: Brothers and the Blackberry

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Conversation: Brothers and the Blackberry

It's my understanding that Jessica has been asked to provide Blackberry updates as often as every 10 minutes.

As someone who has covered trials, that just can't be done and effectively cover the trial.

A compromise can be reached here. If something truly momentous happens (the judge tells Lisa to shut up, or Melvin Brothers says Vincent told him he was going to Bakersfield or something else of critical consequence) then that can be sent by Blackberry as soon as the testimony reaches a conclusion on the issue and there is preliminary questioning on a less urgent matter.

But the reality of covering a trial is you have to listen to all the foundation questions to get the nuances of the critical facts. Constant distractions in a case with a gag order (so you can't ask the attorneys for clarifications) would lessen the reliability and accuracy of our coverage.

I would note that while this is an important story, it is not getting the highest readership. People aren't hanging on the edge of their seats to get every last detail. People do care and it is getting high readership, but updates every break — unless something momentous happens to get an earlier one — seems reasonable.

I would be happy to discuss this further after the morning meeting.