

LOCAL RULE 5

MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

- 5.1** Requests for permission to broadcast, televise, photograph, or otherwise record proceedings in the courtroom shall be made in writing to the Judge. Such applications should be made as far in advance as is reasonably possible but in no event later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the courtroom session to be recorded. The Judge may waive the advance notice provision for good cause. All applications shall become part of the record of the proceedings.
- 5.2** Consistent with the Code of Judicial Conduct, and Superintendence Rule 12 and this Local Rule, the Judge shall grant the request and record that permission in writing. In the event that a question arises as to whether the requested coverage is consistent with Code of Judicial Conduct, interested representatives of the media shall select one of their members to represent them and shall be granted an opportunity to be heard.
- 5.3** All media representatives interested in recording courtroom proceedings shall do so through the pooling of their respective resources. Media representatives shall select a Pool Coordinator who shall take responsibility for (A) placing and operating stationary cameras inside the courtroom, (B) placing and operating all audio equipment, and (C) making the technical arrangements necessary for feeding the output from this equipment to all participating stations at a location outside the courtroom. Where possible the Pool Coordinator shall consult with the Court in advance about possible camera and/or microphone locations inside the courtroom.
- 5.4** Unless otherwise directed by the Judge, no more than one video camera shall be used in the courtroom. Each camera shall have one operator. No artificial lighting shall be used in the courtroom without express permission of the Judge.
- Media representatives shall be afforded a clear view of proceedings in the courtroom but shall not be permitted to move about in the courtroom during the court proceedings except for reasonable ingress to or egress from the courtroom. Interviews shall not be conducted inside the courtroom during such proceedings.
- All equipment needed for the pool shall be located where possible outside the courtroom. Changes of cassettes or film shall not be made inside the courtroom during proceedings. No equipment shall be used inside the courtroom which produces distracting sounds. All equipment in the courtroom must be setup fully and be operational before the beginning of the court proceedings.
- 5.5** If the courtroom has an existing audio system that is technically satisfactory for broadcast purposes, the media pool shall utilize this system. If no such system is available, the pool shall place microphones and wiring as unobtrusively as possible after initial consultation with the Judge. Only one audio system is permitted in each courtroom. The pool may utilize a recording device with built-in microphone where time does not permit setup of an audio system provided the Judge gives permission for this equipment.
- 5.6** There shall be no media intrusion of conferences conducted in a court facility between attorneys and clients or co-counsel, counsel, or of conferences conducted at the bench between counsel and the Judge. The filming, videotaping, recording or taking photographs of victims or witnesses who object thereto shall not be permitted. The filing, videotaping, recording or taking photographs of jurors shall not be permitted under any circumstances. Proper courtroom decorum shall be maintained by all in the courtroom (see Local Rule 35). Failure to do so may result in the Court revoking the permission granted herein.
- 5.7** If the Court determines that proceedings should be closed at the request of either party, the Court shall provide the interested media of notice and afford an opportunity to be heard as to the right of public access versus the interests of justice in court proceedings.