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AT SEATTLE
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
BY DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN RE:	)	GENERAL ORDER
PILOT PROGRAM ON PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, AND BROADCASTING IN THE COURTROOM	)	

1. General Provisions.

(a) Media coverage of federal court proceedings under the pilot program on cameras in the courtroom is permissible only in accordance with these guidelines.

(b) Reasonable advance notice is required from the media of a request to be present to broadcast, televise, record electronically, or take photographs at a particular session. In the absence of such notice, the presiding judicial officer may refuse to permit media coverage.

(b. 1) Reasonable advance notice normally means two business days. Exceptions will be made in extraordinary circumstances, such as emergency proceedings.

(b. 2) The form of notice to the court shall be by written application, four copies of which will be filed with the media liaison in the Clerks Office. One copy of this application form will be retained by the designated deputy clerk, one copy will be routed to the judge through the courtroom deputy, one copy will be provided to the U.S. Marshals Service, and a copy will be re-

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turned to the media applicant. A separate application is required for each proceeding at which the media wish to bring equipment.

(c) A presiding judicial officer may refuse, limit, or terminate media coverage of an entire case, portions thereof, or testimony of particular witnesses, in the interests of justice to protect the rights of the parties, witnesses, and the dignity of the court; to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings; or for any other reason considered necessary or appropriate by the presiding judicial officer.

(c. 1) A timely filed application, presented by a representative of the media, is presumed to be approved unless otherwise indicated by the judge.

(c. 2) If the judge disapproves or sets additional limitations on the request to broadcast a proceeding, the media will be notified by court order.

(c. 3) No witness or party who expresses any prior objection to the judge shall be photographed nor shall the testimony of such a witness or party be broadcast or telecast. Notwithstanding such objection, the judge may allow the broadcasting, televising, recording, or photographing of other portions of the proceedings.

(d) No direct public expense is to be incurred for equipment, wiring, or personnel needed to provide media coverage.

(e) Nothing in these guidelines shall prevent a court from placing additional restrictions, or prohibiting altogether, photographing, recording, or broadcasting in designated areas of the courthouse.

(f) These guidelines take effect July 1, 1991, and expire June 30, 1994.

2. Limitations.

(a) Coverage of criminal proceedings, both at the trial and appellate levels, is prohibited.

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(b) There shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences which occur in a court facility between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel of a client, or between counsel and the presiding judicial officer, whether held in the courtroom or in chambers.

(c) No coverage of the jury, or of any juror or alternate juror, while in the jury box, in the courtroom, in the jury deliberation room, or during recess, or while going to or from the deliberation room at any time, shall be permitted. Coverage of the prospective jury during voir dire is also prohibited.

(c. 1) Media coverage is limited to the courtroom. No filming, photographing, or recording is permitted in the hallways or any other location within the courthouse, with the exception of recording from a "feed box."

3. Equipment and Personnel.

(a) Not more than one television camera, operated by not more than one camera person, shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding.

(a. 1) An additional person will be permitted in the courtroom to operate audio recording equipment in conjunction with the television camera.

(b) Not more than one still photographer, utilizing not more than one camera and related equipment at a time, shall be permitted in any proceeding in a trial or appellate court.

(b. 1) Still photographers are urged to exercise judgment as to timing of photographs in order to minimize distractions.

(c) If two or more media representatives apply to cover a proceeding, no such coverage may begin until all such representatives have agreed upon a pooling arrangement for their respective news media. Such pooling arrangements shall include the designation of pool operators, procedures for cost sharing, access to and dissemination of material, and selection of a pool representative if appropriate. The presiding judicial officer may not be called upon to mediate or resolve any dispute as

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to such arrangements.

(d) Equipment or clothing shall not bear the insignia or marking of a media agency. Camera operators shall wear appropriate business attire.

4. Sound and Light Criteria.

(a) Equipment shall not produce distracting sound or light. Signal lights or devices to show when equipment is operating shall not be visible. Moving lights, flash attachments, or sudden light changes shall not be used.

(b) Except as otherwise approved by the presiding judicial officer, existing courtroom sound and light systems shall be used without modification. Audio pickup for all media purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the court facility, or from a television camera's built-in microphone. If no technically suitable audio system exists in the court facility, microphones and related wiring essential for media purposes shall be unobtrusive and shall be located in places designated in advance of any proceeding by the presiding judicial officer.

5. Location of Equipment and Personnel.

(a) The presiding judicial officer shall designate the location in the courtroom for the camera equipment and operators.

(b) During the proceedings, operating personnel shall not move about nor shall there be placement, movement, or removal of equipment, or the changing of film, film magazines, or lenses. All such activities shall take place each day before the proceeding begins, after it ends, or during a recess.

6. Compliance.

Any media representative who fails to comply with these guidelines shall be subject to appropriate sanction, as determined by the presiding judicial officer.

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7. Review.

It is not intended that a grant or denial of media coverage be subject to appellate review insofar as it pertains to and arises under these guidelines, except as otherwise provided by law.

8. Media Reporting Requirements.

Participation in this pilot program necessitates meeting the reporting requirements set by the Federal Judicial Center. Media representatives will be expected to comply with the following:

(a) All media organizations operating equipment in the courtroom or obtaining feed will register their activity on a Daily Coverage Log which will be furnished by the court. This Log is to be returned to designated court personnel at the end of each day.

(b) Any organization which videotapes in the courtroom and which televises an evening or nightly news program will be expected to complete a Record of Evening News Broadcasts form, which will be furnished by the court. This form must be returned to the court within 10 - 14 days after filming in the courtroom, whether or not coverage of the proceeding was actually broadcast.

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This order shall be effective July 1, 1991.
Dated this 27th day of June, 1991.

BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

CAROLYN R. DIMMICK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

ROBERT J. BRYAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

WILLIAM L. DWYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

THOMAS S. ZILLY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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