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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 IN RE:

11 ELECTRONIC DEVICES PERMITTED  
12 IN COURTHOUSES

GENERAL ORDER 03-14

ORDER DEFINING ELECTRONIC  
DEVICE POLICY FOR WESTERN  
DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
13 COURTHOUSES  
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15 This order pertains to the use of electronic devices by the bar, media and the public in the  
16 courthouses and other dedicated spaces housing the United States District Court for the Western  
17 District of Washington. These are the Seattle United States Courthouse, the Tacoma Union  
18 Station United States Courthouse, and the courtrooms of the Vancouver Federal Building. The  
19 policy also applies to all other places in which the court holds session.

20 Visitors to any of the Western District of Washington courthouses and dedicated spaces  
21 are allowed to carry and make use of various electronic devices as set out by this policy.  
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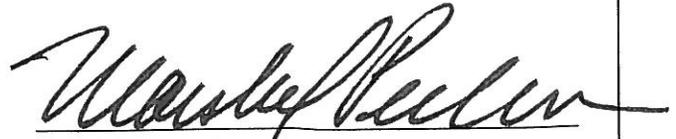
1           General Rules:

- 2           1. Anyone may bring electronic devices, such as a Blackberry, smart phone, laptop,  
3           or tablet computer or a similar functioning device having wireless  
4           communications capability into the courthouse.
- 5           2. Except for courtrooms, persons may use such devices in public areas of the  
6           courthouse to make telephone calls and to transmit and receive data  
7           communications, such as email or text messages, or to access the Internet. For  
8           reasons of privacy, safety, and security, use of these devices to take photographs  
9           or for audio or video recording or transmission is prohibited in the courthouse  
10          (exception for court staff, authorized vendors or for educational or ceremonial  
11          events).
- 12          3. In courtrooms, persons may use such devices to take notes, transmit and receive  
13          data communications, and access the Internet. This includes media members who  
14          are transmitting written accounts of the proceeding to a wider audience using  
15          various means. Persons may not use these devices for telephone calls,  
16          photographs or audio or video recording or transmission. Telephone ring tones  
17          and other functional sounds produced by devices must be disabled while in the  
18          courtroom. Only silent keyboards may be used in the courtrooms.
- 19          4. A presiding judge may prohibit or further restrict use of such devices by all  
20          persons prior to or during a proceeding when necessary to protect the rights of the  
21          parties or to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

22          This order is entered with the agreement of the judges of the court.

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Dated this 25th day of April, 2014.



Marsha J. Pechman  
United States Chief District Judge