

NORTH CAROLINA
WAYNE COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

IN RE)
)
MEDIA ACCESS TO)
)
COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS)

**STANDING ORDER FOR
PHOTOGRAPHING AND RECORDING
OF COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS**

As to the matter of media coverage, the following Order is hereby entered and pertains to all future Superior Court proceedings. The purpose of this Order is to provide the parties a fair trial of the issues in this case, preserve the dignity of these proceedings and allow the media reasonable access to these proceedings.

- 1) There shall be no use of flashbulbs, strobe lights or other artificial lights anywhere in the courtroom.
- 2) There shall be no still or television cameras or recording devices permitted in the courtroom during any portion of jury selection. Photographing during the voir dire process will be prohibited.
- 3) The privacy of jurors being of paramount importance to this Court, the photographing of jurors at any time during the trial will be prohibited.
- 4) Sidebar conferences will not be photographed.
- 5) Bench conferences will not be photographed.
- 6) There shall be no photographing of the defendant(s) outside the courtroom.
- 7) There shall be no interviewing or photographing of parties, witnesses, or attorneys in the hallways of the courthouse during the jury's ingress or egress from the courtroom. The Court's bailiff shall notify the news media present prior to each ingress and egress by the jury to or from the third (3rd) floor hallway.
- 8) For the duration of a trial, no attorney, party, or witness in this matter shall participate in any television, filmed, or electronically recorded interviews.
- 9) Any camera utilized must not be able to be heard by anyone seated in the jury box.
- 10) There shall be no use of cameras in any stairwell or elevator of the courthouse.
- 11) All requests for video access shall be referred to the Judicial Assistant, or Bailiff who is actually in charge of security in the courtroom, or the Presiding Judge. The use of any camera in the courtroom shall be prohibited unless the camera person is a representative of the media and has obtained the permission of the Court which shall determine the use and placement of the camera in the courtroom.

- 12) No microphones shall be used or located in the courtroom beyond the bar without the permission of the Court as to its use and placement. In no event shall wireless microphones be worn by counsel or the parties.
- 13) "Pooling" arrangements among the media required by the limitations on equipment and personnel are the sole responsibility of the media without resort to the Court. In the absence of media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the Court may exclude all contesting media from utilizing video device or any other camera device.
- 14) During the trial of cases, television and audio equipment and tripod-mounted still cameras must not be placed in or removed from the courtroom except prior to commencement or after adjournment of proceedings each day, or during recess.
- 15) The term "photograph" or "camera" includes all video and still cameras or video recording devices.
- 16) Any television camera, radio, or recording equipment that is permitted in the courtroom shall only be turned on and operating while the court is in session.
- 17) Media representatives are expected to present a neat appearance in keeping with the dignity of the proceedings and be sufficiently familiar with court proceedings to conduct themselves so as not to interfere with the dignity of the proceedings, or to distract counsel, jurors or the Court.
- 18) Media representatives who make telephonic reports to their agencies after the trial has begun shall not do so on the third (3rd) floor of the courthouse to avoid being overheard by the jurors in this case.
- 19) No television or still camera is permitted to focus on the papers, exhibits or other documents on counsel table in such a manner that the contents of these materials can be read or otherwise discerned by the viewer.
- 20) The terms of the Order are subject to change or amendment by the Court.
- 21) Certain witnesses may be ordered by the Court to not have their face broadcast or videotaped. This restriction shall apply to any witness under the age of sixteen
- 22) In the event of any disruption in the courtroom, all filming and sound recording shall immediately cease and not resume until permitted by the Court or Bailiffs. Disruptions include any breach of the peace, breach of courtroom decorum, or health-related issues. Any violation of these orders may result in the violating party being found in direct criminal contempt, subjecting that person/entity to serving up to thirty (30) days in the Wayne County Jail.

Entered in Chambers this the 15th day of February, 2010.

Arnold O. Jones II
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge