

## MEDIA POLICY

### **I. Overview**

- The Court is committed to facilitating access to court dockets, documents and proceedings for journalists, and to keeping the public informed about new developments at the Court.
- Court staff will not comment on individual cases. Such inquiries should be directed to attorneys in the case as listed on the case docket.
- Members of the media and public are expected to learn and abide by the Court's policies on contacting the Court and on the use of electronic devices in the courthouse, available in this section.
- The Court supports the presumption of public access to proceedings before the Court.
- The Clerk's Office will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the media's needs and to provide it with the essential information it needs to do its job. The Clerk's Office will respond to questions that can be answered with publicly available information.

### **II. Courthouse Policies**

Members of the media are expected to review and abide by the Court's [Local Rule 83.11](#), [Cellular Phone Policy](#), [Food and Beverage Policy](#), [Laptop Computer Policy](#), and [Weapons Policy](#), all of which are located on the Court's website.

### **III. Electronic Access to Case Information for the Media**

The media can obtain information about specific cases through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. PACER is the federal judiciary's electronic public access case information service. It allows users to obtain case and docket information from federal courts. To access case and docket information on PACER, you must register for the service and obtain a PACER login and password. Registering for PACER is free; however, please consult the PACER website at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov) for its usage fee policy.

For more information, and to register for an account, please call the PACER Service Center at 800-676-6856 or visit the PACER website at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov).

### **IV. Conduct in the Courtroom and Environs**

Conduct in the courtrooms and other areas of the courthouses is regulated by [Local Rule 83.11](#), which sets out certain prohibitions pertaining to the taking of photographs or video, the operation of electronic recording equipment, and broadcasting by any

means, in these areas.

Media representatives should understand that the judge presiding over a particular case is fully responsible for the trial and his or her courtroom and expects the media to comply with terms that he or she may specify. Accordingly, specific information and/or procedures concerning a trial or hearing may be issued or implemented by the judge presiding over the particular matter.

**V. Court Schedule**

The court schedule is available on the public website and the public kiosks located in each courthouse.

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