

RULE 30. Media coverage of Court proceedings

(A) Requests for permission to broadcast, televise, photograph, or otherwise record proceedings in the courtroom shall be made in writing to the Judge or the Judge's designated courtroom employee. Such a request shall be made on the appropriate application form available through the Court Administrator. Such applications should be made as far in advance as is reasonably possible but in no event later than 30 minutes prior to the courtroom session to be recorded. The Judge involved may waive the advance notice provision for good cause. All applications shall become part of the record of the proceedings.

(B) Pursuant to Canon 3A, of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and Superintendence Rule 11 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 Canon 3(A)(7)(ii) interested representatives of the media shall select one of their number to represent them and shall be granted an opportunity to be heard.

(C) All media representatives interested in recording courtroom proceedings shall do so through the pooling of their respective resources. Local 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.

(D) Unless otherwise directed by the involved Judge, no more than one video camera shall be used in the courtroom. Each camera shall have one operator. No artificial lighting other than that normally used in the courtroom shall be used 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 and egress from the courtroom. No interview shall 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 set-up fully and be operational before the beginning of the court proceeding.

(E) 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 a judge or the judge's designee. Only one audio system is permitted in each courtroom. Where time does not permit setup of an audio system the pool may utilize a recording device with built-in microphone provided the judge gives permission for this equipment.

(F) There shall be no audio pick up 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, video-taping, recording or taking photographs of victims or witnesses who object thereto shall not be permitted. The filming, videotaping, recording or taking photographs of jurors shall not be permitted in any circumstance. Proper courtroom decorum shall be maintained by all in the courtroom.