

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR NINTH CIRCUIT**

**GUIDELINES FOR BROADCASTING, RECORDING,
AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE COURTROOM**

(Applications for permission must be received by the Clerk at least two business days
before the date of argument)

1. *General Provisions.*

- (a) Coverage of proceedings in open Court is permissible only in accordance with these guidelines.
- (b) **Two business day advance notice is required** from the media of a request to be present to broadcast, record electronically, or take photographs at a particular session. Such requests must be submitted to the Clerk of Court more than two business days in advance of the argument date using the application form found on the court's website ([HERE](#)) The panel may waive the two business day requirement under appropriate circumstances.
- (c) Upon receipt of a media request, the Clerk of Court will notify the panel and counsel of record of such request. The panel will retain the authority, in its sole discretion, to grant or prohibit camera coverage of any proceeding.
- (d) The presiding judge of the panel may limit or terminate media coverage, or direct the removal of camera coverage personnel when necessary to protect the rights of the parties or to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.
- (e) No direct public expense is to be incurred for equipment, wiring, or personnel needed to provide media coverage.
- (f) These guidelines take effect April 7, 2014.

2. *Limitations.*

- (a) Coverage of all proceedings in open court may be permitted unless prohibited by rule or statute. Camera coverage must be conducted in conformity with applicable statutes and rules.

- (b) There shall be no audio recording, pickup or broadcast of conferences between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel, or among members of the panel.

3. *Equipment and Personnel.*

- (a) As many as two television cameras, with one operator per camera, and one still photographer may be permitted in the courtroom. The Clerk of Court, or designee, shall identify the location in the courtroom for the camera equipment and operators.
- (b) Equipment shall not produce distracting sound or light. Signal lights or devices to show when equipment is operating shall not be visible. Motorized drives, moving lights, flash attachments, or sudden light changes shall not be used. Still cameras that do not operate quietly will not be used at any time when court is in session.
- (c) Except as otherwise approved by the Clerk of Court or designee, 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 by the Clerk or designee.
- (d) All equipment must be set up prior to the opening of the court session. Equipment must remain in place for the duration of the court session or until a recess is called to allow for its removal. Camera operators shall wear suitable attire in the courtroom.
- (e) Media personnel shall also adhere to the direction of the Clerk of Court or designee in such matters as security, parking, noise avoidance, and other related issues.

4. *News Media Pooling*

- (a) Camera coverage will be permitted by any person or entity regularly engaged in the gathering and dissemination of news. If coverage is sought by more than one person or entity, a pool system must be used. Each media representative must submit an application on behalf of its organization.

- (b) It will be the responsibility of the news media to agree upon a pooling arrangement for their respective news medium. Such pooling arrangements shall include the designation of pool providers, procedures for cost sharing, access to and dissemination of material, and selection of a pool representative if appropriate.
- (c) The court may not be called upon to mediate or resolve any dispute as to such arrangements.

5. *Educational Institutions.*

The Court may also authorize the coverage of court proceedings and access to pooled coverage by educational institutions.

(effective 4/7/2014)