

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Cameras and Electronic Devices Policy

This policy pertains to the use of cameras and electronic devices by the bar, the media, and the public in the courthouses and other dedicated spaces housing the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. These facilities include the William K. Nakamura U.S. Courthouse in Seattle, the Pioneer U.S. Courthouse in Portland, the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Courthouse in Pasadena, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Honolulu. The policy also applies to other places in which the court holds session for special sittings. These places include courtrooms in district courthouses and spaces in law schools and other locations. Visitors to any of the Ninth Circuit courthouses and dedicated spaces may carry and make use of cameras and electronic devices as set out by this policy.

General Rules:

1. Anyone may bring cameras and electronic devices, such as a smart phone, tablet, laptop computer or a similar device having wireless communications capability, into the courthouse.
2. Except inside courtrooms while court is in session, persons may use such devices in public areas of the courthouse to make telephone calls and to transmit and receive data communications, such as email or text messages, or to access the Internet. Visitors may photograph public areas. For reasons of privacy, safety, and security, however, use of these devices to take photographs or for audio or video recording or transmission is prohibited in security screening areas. Moreover, there shall be no photography of judicial officers or court staff within the public areas of the courthouses without their permission.
3. Advance permission is required for those wishing to photograph any court session. Please use our [Application Form](#).
4. While any sort of photography or audio/video recording is prohibited during court sessions without this advance permission, it is permissible to use electronic devices to take notes, transmit and receive data communications, and access the Internet. Media members may transmit written accounts of the proceeding to a wider audience using various means. No one may use these devices for telephone calls. Telephone ring tones and other sounds produced by devices must be disabled while in the courtroom. Only quiet keyboards may be used in the courtroom.
5. The presiding judge of a judicial panel may prohibit or further restrict the use of such devices by all persons prior to or during a proceeding when necessary to protect the rights of the parties or to ensure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.
6. Different rules may apply when the court meets in another venue, such as a district courthouse. In case of a conflict, the more restrictive policy applies unless the court orders otherwise.
7. This policy will be displayed prominently wherever the court holds session and will be posted on the court's website. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in removal from the premises or other sanction.

(adopted 6/23/2001, updated 1/13/2020)