

MEDIA PROTOCOL FOR COVERAGE OF HIGH PROFILE CASES

1. Reserved Media Seating in the Courtroom

Limited reserved seating will be available in the courtroom for those media representatives displaying a court-authorized media ID. Sketch artists will be placed in the first row of spectator seating or jury box if appropriate. Only one representative from each media organization will be allowed to sit in the reserved seating space. Courtroom seating will be monitored by the Public Information Officer and/or other Court Staff. Media representatives with court ID not seated in the reserved area may occupy unused public seating or view the proceedings from the overflow room which will be equipped with large television monitors. Once seated in the courtroom you will not be permitted to leave until the judge authorizes a break in the proceeding.

2. Use of Electronic Devices in the Courthouse

Cell phones and PDA's are not permitted in the Courthouse. Laptops are permitted in the media center or designated overflow room. The Court provides Wi-Fi in the media center, but journalists may want to bring along an air card as backup. The media center is equipped with a large table and power strips. Using a laptop camera or recording functions is strictly prohibited.

3. Media Qualifications to Obtain Authorized ID

You must be employed by a news publication, recognized television, cable, or radio news organization. Book authors, freelance writers, and talk show hosts generally do not qualify. You will be required to submit credential information to support your qualifications. The Court retains absolute authority to determine whether any organization or individual is granted a media credential.