



J. D. LANGLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE
85TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Brazos County Courthouse
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Bryan, Texas 77803

979
(409) 361-4270

BROADCAST CAMERA ACCESS TO COURTROOM

1. EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

(A) Not more than one portable camera with one camera person allowed in court proceeding. The same camera person will cover the entire trial. No company logo's will be permitted on equipment in courtroom.

(B) Any "pooling" arrangements among the media required by these limitations on equipment and personnel shall be the sole responsibility of the media without calling upon the presiding judge to mediate any dispute as to the appropriate media representatives or equipment authorized to cover a particular proceeding. In the absence of advance media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the presiding judge shall exclude all contesting media personnel from a proceeding.

2. SOUND AND LIGHT CRITERIA

(A) Only television photographic and audio equipment which does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed to cover judicial proceedings. No artificial lighting device of any kind shall be employed in connection with the television camera.

(B) It shall be the affirmative duty of media personnel to demonstrate to the presiding judge adequately in advance of any proceeding the equipment sought to be utilized meets the sound and light criteria. A failure to obtain advance judicial approval for equipment shall preclude its use in any proceeding.

3. LOCATION OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

(A) Television camera equipment shall be positioned in such location in the court facility as shall be designated by the presiding judge. The area designated shall provide reasonable access to coverage.

(B) Broadcast media representatives shall not move about the court facility while proceedings are in session, and microphones or taping equipment once positioned as required shall not be moved during the pendency of the proceeding.

4. MOVEMENT DURING PROCEEDINGS

(A) News media photographic or audio equipment shall not be placed in or removed from the court facility except prior to commencement and after adjournment of proceedings each day, or during a recess.

(B) Videotapes may be changed during trial in an inconspicuous manner demonstrated prior to proceeding to presiding judge.

5. CONFERENCES OF COUNSEL

To protect the attorney-client privilege and the effective right to counsel, there shall be no audio pick-up or broadcast of conferences which occur in a court facility between attorneys and their clients, between the counsel of a client, or between counsel and the presiding judge held at the bench.

6. OFFICIAL RECORD

The recording made by the official court reporter shall be the only official record of the court proceedings. No other audio or visual recording shall be permitted as substitute for the official record.

7. CIVIL CASES

In cases which are subject to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, no audio or visual recording shall be permitted except as authorized by Texas Rules of Civil Procedure rule 18c.

8. SPECIAL CASES

The court reserves the right to impose further limitations up to and including total exclusion of audio and visual recording equipment, depending upon the circumstances of any given case.