

**APRIL 22, 2013**

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In Re

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES  
AND FEDERAL COURT  
FACILITIES IN SPOKANE,  
YAKIMA AND RICHLAND,  
WASHINGTON.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 13-113-1

RE UTILIZATION OF ELECTRONIC  
DEVICES DURING COURT  
PROCEEDINGS

This Order applies to courtroom proceedings in all United States  
Courthouses and Federal court facilities located in the Eastern District of  
Washington, specifically including:

1. The Thomas S. Foley United States Courthouse, 920 West Riverside  
Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99201;
2. The United States Post Office Building, 904 West Riverside Avenue,  
Spokane, Washington 99201;
3. The William O. Douglas Courthouse, 25 South Third Street, Yakima,  
Washington 98901;

1           4. The United States Bankruptcy Court – Chinook Tower, 402 East Yakima  
2 Avenue, Yakima, Washington 98901; and

3  
4           5. The United States Courthouse, 825 Jadwin Avenue, Richland,  
5 Washington 99352.

6           Additionally, court proceedings may be held in other facilities or buildings  
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8 from time to time. This Order covers all court locations as described above and  
9 any Federal court facility as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(1), as follows:

10           The term “Federal court facility” means the courtroom, judges’ chambers,  
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12 witness rooms, jury deliberation rooms, attorney conference rooms, prisoner  
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14 holding cells, offices of the court clerks, the United States attorney, and the  
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16 United States Marshal, probation and parole offices, and adjoining corridors  
17 of any court of the United States.

18           **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURTROOM DURING**  
19           **COURT PROCEEDINGS – GENERAL PUBLIC**

20           Pursuant to General Order No. 13-54-1, all forms, means, and manner of  
21 capturing, recording, broadcasting, transmitting, and/or storing of anything by use  
22 of electronic, photographic, audio and/or visual means are prohibited in all  
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24 courtrooms and environs thereto during the course of, or in connection with, any  
25  
26 judicial proceedings whether the Court is actually in session or not. No person  
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28 shall use any electronic device in the courtroom for voice communications or to  
create a verbatim transcript or recording of court proceedings or the testimony of a

1 witness. Further, pursuant to General Order 13-54-1, unless otherwise ordered by  
2 the Court, no person will be allowed to use a laptop computer or other electronic  
3 device, e.g., tablets or smart phones, within the courtroom with the following  
4 exceptions:  
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- 6 1. Resident or visiting federal court staff;
- 7
- 8 2. Any member of the Bar of this Court and/or their staff members; and
- 9 3. Members of the media who have been approved by the presiding judge to

10 report electronically, e.g. via twitter or blogging.  
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13 **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURTROOM DURING**  
14 **COURT PROCEEDINGS – NOTE TAKING, SENDING/RECEIVING**  
15 **MESSAGES, AND LIVE MEDIA BLOGGING**

16 For purposes of this Order, live media blogging is defined as the use of an  
17 electronic device, such as laptop, tablet or smart phone, together with wireless  
18 internet access to upload text to an internet site or to a peer who will use the text  
19 for on-line, televised or print news coverage.  
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22 The Court will entertain formal requests for live media blogging on a case-  
23 by-case basis. Ruling upon live blogging requests is at the sole discretion of the  
24 presiding judge, may stand for a single court proceeding within an identified case  
25 or for all public proceedings within an identified case, and is non-reviewable,  
26 except where provided by law.  
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1 All requests must be made by using the *Request for Live Media Blogging*  
2 form posted on the Court's website. Requests must be e-mailed to the presiding  
3 judge's orders email address which can be found at the Court's website.  
4

5 Members of the media receiving approval from the presiding judge for a  
6 *Request for Live Media Blogging* will be issued a Media Badge by court staff. The  
7 badges shall be worn in the courtroom so that they are clearly noticeable to all  
8 attendees. A designated seating area in the courtroom shall be reserved for  
9 members of the media.  
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12 Only identified members of the media, i.e., those wearing badges provided  
13 by court staff, shall be permitted to use electronic devices in the courtroom.  
14 Electronic devices shall only be used for note taking, to send/receive text  
15 messages, emails and tweets, and to perform live media blogging activities.  
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18 The use of electronic or other devices shall be in such a manner as to not be  
19 a distraction to the Court, the jury, or others in attendance during the trial. If the  
20 use of electronic devices is disruptive or interferes with the court's sound system or  
21 other electronic projections, the use of electronic devices will be modified  
22 or prohibited.  
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25 All electronic devices shall be placed in silent or vibrate mode to prevent  
26 audible alarms being heard, and only "silent" keyboards may be used in the  
27 courtroom.  
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1 Still and video cameras are prohibited anywhere in the courthouse, and no  
2 device may be operated in camera, record, or video mode. Photography and audio  
3 and video recording, transmission or broadcast are prohibited in the courthouse.  
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5 No electronic or other device shall be used to create a verbatim transcript or  
6 recording of court proceedings or the testimony of a witness. Note taking as to  
7 specific individualized statements of the court, attorneys, or witnesses is permitted.  
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9 No person shall use any electronic device for voice communications in the  
10 courtroom.  
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12 This Order was approved by the Article III judges of the U.S. District Court,  
13 Eastern District of Washington, on April 22, 2013. The Order shall take effect  
14 immediately. The Court may modify its electronic device use policy at any time  
15 and for any reason.  
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18 DATED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2013.  
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23 ROSANNA MALOUF PETERSON  
24 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
25 FOR THE COURT  
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