



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Circuit Issues Advisory on Cameras

SPOKANE – The Ninth Circuit Executive has issued the following media advisory:

With limited and controlled exceptions, federal district courts do not allow still photography or video and audio recording in courtrooms or public areas of a courthouse. The prohibition is derived from policy set by the Judicial Conference of the United States and codified in the local rules and general orders promulgated by individual courts. Use of electronic devices also may be subject to orders by individual judges.

Still and video cameras may not be used in a courthouse and an individual court may bar such equipment from being brought into the building. An individual court may or may not allow visitors to bring cell phones, smart phones, tablets, laptop computers and other electronic devices into the courthouse. Even if allowed, such devices may not be used to take photographs or record video and/or audio anywhere in a courthouse without prior approval of the court. An individual court may grant exceptions to these rules for a ceremonial event, educational activity or other special circumstance.

Adherence to these rules is expected and appreciated. If you have questions regarding court policies in the Eastern District of Washington, please contact District Clerk Sean McAvoy, (509) 458-3400.

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