

RULE 83.6

SECURITY

(a) Courthouse Security

- (1) Screening and Search. All persons entering federal courthouse facilities in this district and all items carried by them are subject to appropriate screening and search by a deputy U.S. Marshal, or any other designated law enforcement officer. Persons may be requested to provide identification and to state the nature of their business in the courthouse. Anyone refusing to cooperate with these security measures may be denied entrance to the courthouse.
- (2) Firearms and Other Weapons. All persons, including all law enforcement personnel not employed by the United States Marshals Service, shall deposit any firearm or other weapon with a deputy U. S. Marshal or any other law enforcement officer designated by the U. S. Marshal, directly upon entering federal courthouse facilities, unless otherwise specifically authorized by the United States Marshal.

No firearms or other weapons are permitted in any courtroom, except when carried by U. S. Marshals Service personnel or when used as exhibits. Upon entering the courthouse, the custodian of the firearm or other weapon exhibit must submit it to the United States Marshal's Office for a determination that the firearm or other weapon exhibit is inoperative to the Marshal's satisfaction.

(b) Photographing; Broadcasting; Televising; Recording

- (1) Photographic, Broadcasting and Recording Equipment. The taking of photographs and the use of radio, television or other recording or broadcasting equipment anywhere inside the Courthouses, or in any leased space, occupied by the district court, the bankruptcy court, the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office, or the United States Marshal, are strictly prohibited. For the purpose of this rule, the environs of the courtroom shall include the Judges' chambers, halls, passageways and stairways on those floors of the building on which court proceedings are conducted; elevators; the chambers of magistrate judges; the office of the Clerk of Court; the office of the United States Marshal, and all areas encompassed within the courthouse building communicating at the entrances to said building.

Photographing, recording (audio or video), broadcasting, transmission or televising of federal court proceedings is not allowed. This disposition is extensive to all attorneys and legal aides who may be using cellular telephones or any other electronic device (i.e., palm notepads) with built-in features allowing for the taking of photographs, audio or video recording and scanning documents.

- (2) Exceptions. However, a judge may authorize broadcasting, televising, recording or taking photographs in the courtroom or adjacent areas during naturalization, admissions to the bar or other ceremonial or special proceedings.

The use of electronic, photographic and recording equipment may be allowed in any courtroom as a means for presentation of evidence or for the perpetuation of the record of the proceedings in court, videoconferencing, electronic case filing and access, for security purposes, for purposes of judicial administration, or in accordance with any pilot program allowed by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

(c) Cellular Phones, Pagers, Tape or Digital Recorders, and Laptop Computers

- (1) Authorized Court Personnel. Only authorized Court personnel may possess cellular phones or pagers in court facilities. The United States Attorney and his/her assistants are authorized to possess cellular phones and pagers in Court facilities by virtue of their federal law enforcement status pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 115(c)(1), in the discharge of their official government duties, upon a demonstrated need to the presiding judicial officer. However, such devices shall be switched to their “silent mode” when brought into or possessed in any courtroom or judge’s chamber absent specific advance authorization to the contrary by a judicial officer. Likewise, such devices shall be switched to their “silent mode” when brought into or possessed in or during mediation sessions absent specific advance authorization to the contrary by the mediator in the proceedings.
- (2) Members of the Bar . Attorneys, and their assistants, when providing services to counsel, may be allowed to use laptop computers in the courtrooms upon counsel’s certification to the presiding judicial officer that he/she will comply, and be responsible for his staff’s compliance, with the Rules of this Court, specifically with the provisions under subsection (b)(1).
- (3) Other Persons. All other persons shall deposit any cellular phone, pager, laptop computer, personal digital assistant (PDA) or similar device, tape or digital recorders, with a deputy U. S. Marshal or any other law enforcement officer designated by the U. S. Marshal, directly upon entering the federal courthouse or courtroom facilities.