

FILED

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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EAST ST. LOUIS OFFICE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**IN RE:
MEDIA ACCESS**

)
) **Amended Administrative Order No. 322**
)

FIRST AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This Administrative Order amends Administrative Order No. 322 dated October 21, 2022. Media representatives are advised that a judge presiding over a particular case is fully responsible for the proceedings in his or her courtroom, and the media is expected to comply with any terms the presiding judge may specify. Pursuant to SDIL-LR 83.6, a presiding judge may enter a special order regarding the seating and conduct of news media representatives. Accordingly, specific information and/or procedures concerning a certain case may be issued or implemented by the judge presiding over the matter. In the event such orders are entered, a copy will be posted through PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) and on the Court's website.

In high profile or widely publicized cases, the presiding judge may restrict or limit courtroom media access for security purposes or otherwise. If media representatives are not able to observe the proceedings from inside the courtroom, they may be able to sit in a designated overflow area if one is needed and/or available.

Subject to special orders that may be entered by a presiding judge, all courtrooms are generally open to the public. Further, a presiding judge may, in his or her discretion, authorize live remote public audio access to civil and bankruptcy non-trial proceedings in which a witness is not testifying.

Media representatives do not require special credentials, other than government-

issued photo identification, to enter either courthouse in the Southern District of Illinois. Credentialed media representatives may bring the following electronic devices into the courthouse and courtrooms: laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Credentialed media representatives are defined as persons employed by a newspaper company, magazine publishing company, internet news outlet, blog, radio company, or television company who have completed and signed the Court's Media Access Agreement (found on the Court's website). Completed forms should be emailed to media@ilsd.uscourts.gov. An email notification will be sent once your agreement has been processed.

The Clerk of Court maintains the list of eligible credentialed media representatives and provides the list to the Court Security Officers for use during building entry screening. Nonverbal use of the electronic devices in courtrooms, such as typing, is permitted provided it is silent and does not disturb the proceedings. The electronic device may not be used for any purpose other than preserving or conveying the events in the courtroom or courthouse. At no time may any of the electronic devices be used to verbally speak to anyone or to visually or audibly record any events. The presiding judge in the courtroom is authorized to determine whether use of an electronic device is disturbing to the proceedings and to direct its discontinuance if found to be disruptive.

The Court reserves the right to perform a background check and due diligence examination on issues which would bear directly on the request for media credentials. Should that due diligence result in a rejection of credentials, the applicant will be given an opportunity to discuss the reasons for the rejection with the Chief Judge to determine if a reversal of the determination may result.

Pursuant to Judicial Conference policy, SDIL-LR 83.5, and this Administrative Order,

the taking of photographs, video, and audio recordings in connection with any judicial proceeding is not allowed (except by the official court reporters in performance of their duties) unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Violation of this policy will require the immediate deletion of the offending material from the media representative's device(s). Furthermore, the credentials of the media representative will be suspended by the Chief Judge for no less than three months for the first violation, no less than six months for the second violation, no less than nine months for the third violation, no less than one year for the fourth violation, and any violations beyond that at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

Moreover, any person who is found to be visually or audibly recording any proceeding or photographing the same may be subject to a contempt proceeding and/or any additional remedy or penalty provided by statute to enforce the rules of the Judicial Conference.

Additional general information regarding proceedings and records is available on the Court's website. Again, any inquiries regarding media access should be directed to media@ilsd.uscourts.gov. All media access inquiries should include: (1) the media representative's name; (2) the media representative's contact information, including the media outlet for which the representative works; and (3) the entirety of the inquiry.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 10, 2024



NANCY J. ROSENSTENGEL
Chief U.S. District Judge