



Advisory Regarding Media and Public Access

United States v. Reffitt, 21-CR-0032 (DLF)

This Court has implemented COVID-19 protocols to protect the health and safety of all trial participants, jurors, court staff, and members of the public and media. As a result of these protocols, which include social distancing and reconfiguration of courtrooms, seating for members of the public and media in trial courtrooms is limited. The following arrangements have been made to maximize public and media access to the trial in *United States v. Reffitt, 21-CR-0032 (DLF)*:

1. **Access to Jury Selection**: Jury selection will take place in two courtrooms. General voir dire will take place in Courtroom 20 and individual voir dire will take place in Courtroom 16. Approximately three seats will be available for the media and public in Courtroom 20, and approximately 10 seats will be available in Courtroom 16. At least one seat in each courtroom may be reserved for designated media pool representatives, upon application to the Court's Media Liaison. The other seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the available seats in the "live" courtrooms, the Court will provide a video feed of the jury selection process to an overflow courtroom. The Court anticipates that approximately 15 seats will be available in the overflow courtroom for the public and media, and such seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The location of the overflow courtroom will be posted in the Atrium of the Courthouse and other central locations on the day of jury selection.

2. **Access to Trial**: Rooms 1206 and 1131B on the first floor of the Courthouse have been designated as "media rooms" for the trial. Members of the media may observe a video feed of the trial proceedings from these rooms, in adherence with the posted "Media Rooms Rules of Use" (copy attached). The media rooms will open at 8:00 am each trial day, unless notice is posted indicating otherwise.

Members of the public (and media) may observe video feeds of the trial proceedings from one or more designated overflow courtrooms. The location of overflow courtrooms will be posted in the Atrium of the Courthouse and other central locations each day of the trial. Seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Absolutely no electronic devices may be used by the public or media in overflow courtrooms. Overflow courtrooms will open each day approximately 30 minutes before trial proceedings begin.

3. **Sketch Artists**: Sketch artists seeking access to jury selection or the trial should contact the Media Liaison. Arrangements will depend upon space and availability of seats.
4. **Lines**: Members of the media and public seeking access to any of the live or overflow courtrooms, or the media rooms, must wait in designated locations outside the rooms until seating is available. Signs will be posted indicating the designated locations for lines. For health, safety, and security reasons,

members of the media and public will not be permitted to crowd or congregate in hallways.

5. **Entering the Courthouse**: In order to minimize delays for all those entering the Courthouse, members of the media are requested to use the John Marshall Park entrance, located near the media rooms.
6. **Adjustments**: Adjustments to these arrangements may be made as necessary to maximize media and public access and assure fair opportunities for access for all interested parties.
7. **Contact**: Questions about media and public access may be directed to the Court's Media Liaison Lisa Klem. She may be reached at 202-384-7306 or Lisa_Klem@dcd.uscourts.gov.

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