

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia

IN RE: PROHIBITION ON
PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING,
BROADCASTING, AND
LIVESTREAMING JUDICIAL
PROCEEDINGS

Standing Order No. 24-31 (JEB)

Chief Judge James E. Boasberg

<u>ORDER</u>

- 1. This Court is committed to providing broad public and media access to judicial proceedings, with exceptions for matters that are sealed or restricted by a judge for reasons of security or confidentiality.
- 2. This Court facilitates public access to judicial proceedings in several ways. For a high-profile proceeding, the Court may open a media room in the courthouse, allowing members of the media to observe a live audio/video feed of the proceeding and file contemporaneous written reports. The Court may also open an overflow room in the courthouse with a live audio/video feed of a proceeding when public interest in the proceeding is expected to exceed the capacity of the main courtroom. When a proceeding is held by videoconference, members of the public and media may watch the videoconference from the presiding judge's courtroom. For certain non-trial civil proceedings, the presiding judge may authorize the use of an audio-only call-in line for members of the public and media to listen remotely.
- 3. Although members of the public and media are permitted to enter the courthouse with electronic devices, a presiding judge may limit the possession and use of such devices in a courtroom or overflow room when circumstances warrant.

4. Photographing, recording, broadcasting, and livestreaming of judicial proceedings by members of the public and media is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether a proceeding is observed from a courtroom, overflow room, or media room, or accessed by a remote call-in line. *See* Local Civil Rule 83.1(a); Local Criminal Rule 53.1(a); Fed. R. Crim. P. 53; and *Media Policy of the U.S. Courts of the D.C. Circuit*. Violations of these prohibitions have the potential to jeopardize the safety and well-being of witnesses and participants in judicial proceedings and may otherwise interfere with the administration of justice.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that any member of the public or media who violates these prohibitions may be subject to sanctions, including contempt, removal of court-issued media-room passes, denial of entry to future proceedings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary and appropriate by the Court.

SO ORDERED.

September 17, 2024

AMES E BOASBERG

Chief Judge