IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

IN RE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURTHOUSE	* *	 MISC. NO. 00-308

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STANDING ORDER 2012-08

Under Local Rule 506, the Court has generally prohibited any photography, videorecording, audiorecording, broadcasting, or transmission of court proceedings and courthouse spaces. In furtherance of this rule and to provide clarification to visitors to the courthouse, it is hereby

ORDERED that visitors to the courthouse and counsel may bring electronic devices into the courthouse provided they have been subject to a security inspection and cleared by security officers upon entrance to the courthouse;[1] and it is further

ORDERED that visitors to the courthouse and counsel may use cellular phones and transmit wireless data through mobile devices in the public areas of the courthouse provided these devices are not used for taking photographs or any audio or video recording. Members of this Court's Bar may use these devices in the designated attorney lounges; and it is further

ORDERED that visitors to the courthouse must turn off all electronic devices before entering a courtroom and may not use electronic devices in a courtroom without the permission of the presiding judge; and it is further

ORDERED that counsel may use electronic devices in the courtroom provided the presiding judge has no objection; the devices emit no sound while in use; and the devices are not used for any activity prohibited by Local Rule 506; and it further

[1] For purposes of this Order, "visitors to the courthouse" includes, but is not limited to, prospective jurors, members of the media, and case litigants.

ORDERED that selected jurors may use electronic devices in jury rooms except during deliberations, unless otherwise instructed by the presiding judge. Selected jurors may not use electronic devices in the courtroom while court is in session, and grand jurors may not use electronic devices in the grand jury room while the grand jury is in session; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order shall apply to the federal courthouses of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland sitting at Baltimore, Greenbelt, and Salisbury, Maryland, as well as at any alternate locations where the Court may sit in the District of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that nothing in this Order shall limit or expand the photography and recording exceptions permitted under Local Rule 506. A judge sponsoring an event at the courthouse may authorize the photographing or recording of courthouse spaces so long as the photographing or recording is not prohibited by Local Rule 506.1.

Sept 18, 2012
Date

Deborah K. Chasanow, Chief Judge
United States District Court