

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

In Re:

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES
IN THE COURTHOUSE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER 17-01**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING THE POSSESSION
AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY THE PUBLIC
IN THE BANKRUPTCY COURT**

Under Local Bankruptcy Rule 5073- 1, the Court has generally prohibited photography, video recording, audio recording, broadcasting, or transmission of court proceedings in 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 court house¹; and it is further

ORDERED, that, by bringing electronic devices into the courthouse, visitors and counsel are on notice that electronic devices may be subject to confiscation and inspection to determine whether there has been a violation of Local Bankruptcy Rule 5073-1 or this Administrative Order, and by bringing electronic devices into the courthouse consent to such confiscation and inspection; 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; and it is 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 members of this Court's Bar may access the Wi-Fi connection pursuant to applicable policy restrictions and may use electronic devices subject to the limitations of Local Bankruptcy Rule 5073-1; 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 while their matter is being heard for approved purposes (i.e., to check email or calendars, perform case-related legal research, or otherwise as approved by the presiding judge) unless prohibited by the presiding judge, provided the devices emit no sound while in use, and the devices are not used for any activity prohibited by Local Bankruptcy Rule 5073-1; and it is further

ORDERED, that this Order shall apply to the federal courthouses of the United States Bankruptcy 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 United States District Court 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 United States District Court Local Rule 506; and it is further

ORDERED, that Administrative Order 13-3 is rescinded.


Nancy V. Alquist, Chief Judge

Dated: March 1, 2017