CHAMBERS OF
TARA M. DESAUTELS
Presiding Judge
Department 1

René C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

GENERAL DIRECTIVE BY THE PRESIDING JUDGE

DIRECTIVE NO: 2020-31

SUBJECT: MEDIA AND MEDIA AGENCY PHOTOGRAPHING, BROADCASTING, AND RECORDING IN COURTHOUSES

(a) Application

This Directive applies to requests by the media and media agencies to photograph, record, or broadcast specific courtroom proceedings, to the extent such requests are not covered by rule 1.150 of the California Rules of Court, and within courthouses generally.

(b) Definitions

As used in this Directive:

(1) "Media coverage" means any photographing, recording, or broadcasting by the media using television, radio, photographic, or recording equipment.

(2) "Media" or "media agency" means any person or organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and includes any newspaper, radio or television station or network, news service, magazine, trade paper, in-house publication, professional journal, or other news-reporting or news-gathering agency.

(3) "Photographing" means recording a likeness, regardless of the method used, including by digital or photographic methods. "Photographing" does not include drawings or sketchings of courtroom proceedings.

(4) "Recording" means the use of any analog or digital device to aurally or visually preserve courtroom proceedings or any other activities in a courthouse. "Recording" does not include handwritten notes on the court record, whether by court reporter or by digital or analog preservation.

(5) "Broadcasting" means a visual or aural transmission or signal, by any method, from within a courthouse, including any electronic transmission or transmission by sound waves.

(6) "Courthouse" means the interior of court-occupied portions of buildings in which sessions of the Superior Court of Alameda County are held, except for courtrooms.

(c) Media access to specific courtroom proceedings

This subdivision applies to all media requests to photograph, record, or broadcast specific courtroom proceedings.

(1) *Request procedure*

Requests under this subdivision are governed by California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

(2) *Where to file*

Pursuant to rule 1.150(e)(1), requests to photograph, record, or broadcast a specific courtroom proceeding must be filed in the department in which the proceeding is calendared.

If no department has been assigned, the request must be filed in the department of the Supervising Judge of the courthouse in which the proceeding will be conducted.

(d) All other media access within the courthouse

Except as provided in (c), all requests to photograph, record, or broadcast within a courthouse are governed by this subdivision.

(1) *Request procedure*

Requests to photograph, record, or broadcast within a courthouse must be made on Judicial Council form *Media Request to Photograph, Record, or Broadcast* (form MC-500).

In item 1 of the form, the requestor must (1) indicate that the request does not apply to a specific courtroom proceeding, (2) explain the purpose of the request, (3) specify the proposed courthouse and staging area, (4) indicate whether the request is related to a particular case and, if so, provide the case name and number, and (5) state the proposed date(s) of photographing, recording, or broadcasting, including whether the request is ongoing for the duration of a particular case.

The requestor must also complete and file a proposed order on Judicial Council form *Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage* (form MC-510).

(2) *Where to file*
The request and proposed order forms must be filed in the department of the Supervising Judge of the proposed courthouse.

(3) *When to file*
The request and proposed order forms must be filed at least five court days before the requested date unless good cause is shown.

(4) *Designated areas by courthouse*
Unless otherwise ordered by a Supervising Judge, photographing, recording, or broadcasting within a courthouse may only be permitted in the following designated areas of each courthouse:

Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
First floor, next to the roped off area between Room 104 (Alameda County Sheriff's Office) and Room 105 (Court Human Resources), between the snack bar and the Fallon Street stairs.

Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse
First floor, in the public hallway adjacent to the mezzanine stairway, between the snack food stand and Departments 102 and 103 (as long as not blocking access to those departments or the emergency and employee exits).

Alameda County Administration Building
Third floor lobby, but not blocking elevator or courtroom access.

Berkeley Courthouse
Second floor, in between but not blocking the two courtrooms (under the exit sign and in front of the fire extinguisher).

George E. McDonald Hall of Justice
First floor, near the wall to the left of weapons screening, as long as not blocking courtroom or office access (and not filming the screening area).

Hayward Hall of Justice
First floor, at the end of the public hallway on the right, past the elevator banks, snack stand, and public restrooms, adjacent to the closed side courthouse doors.

Juvenile Justice Center
Photographing, recording, or broadcasting pursuant to this Directive will not be permitted in the Juvenile Justice Center.

Fremont Hall of Justice
First floor, in the public area facing the north doors (looking towards Walnut Avenue, Veteran's Park, and the flagpole), without obstructing access to and from the Public Defender's Office.

East County Hall of Justice
Ground floor (down the stairs immediately beyond weapons screening), next to the Office of Information Technology but not blocking access to the adjacent Government Building.

(e) Prohibited coverage

Media and media agencies granted access under this Directive must never photograph, record, or broadcast any of the following persons without their expressed written consent:

(1) Jurors and prospective jurors
(2) Witnesses and prospective witnesses
(3) All court personnel
(4) All judicial officers

This directive shall expire on December 31, 2020.

Issued: February 3, 2020

Tara M. Desautels, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda