

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: GENERAL ORDER
MEDIA ACCESS No. 2018- 15

O R D E R

Effective August 1, 2018, the Court will allow credentialed members of the media to bring the following electronic devices into the Courthouse and Courtrooms: laptops with silent keyboards, tablets, and smart phones (“electronic devices”).

In order to be considered a credentialed member of the media, an individual who is either employed by a news agency or is self-employed must submit an application for a Media Identification Card and, subsequently, be approved for said Media Identification Card. The Court reserves the right to perform a background check and due diligence examination on issues that would bear directly on the subject matter at hand for each applicant for a Media Identification Card. Should either result in the rejection of credentials, the applicant will be given the opportunity to discuss the reasons for said rejection with the Court’s Media Liaison, in an effort to determine if a reversal of the rejection is necessary.

The Clerk of Court shall maintain the list of all eligible credentialed members of the media and shall provide said list to the United States Marshal’s Service and Court Security Officers for use during building entry screening. All credentialed media members shall wear their Court-issued Media Identification card upon entry and throughout their duration in the Courthouse.

Nonverbal use of electronic devices shall be permitted, provided they are silent and do not create any disturbances. The presiding Judge in the courtroom is authorized to determine whether


use of an electronic device is disruptive to the proceeding at hand and to direct its discontinuance if found to be disruptive.


Violation of this Administrative Order and/or related Local Rules 83(c)(9) and 83(c)(10) will require the immediate deletion of the offending material from the media member's device. Furthermore, any such violations will result in the suspension and/or revocation of the credentialed media member's Court-issued Media Identification Card. Ultimately, the Chief Judge shall have the discretion to issue the appropriate sanction for said violations.


Photographs, video, and audio recordings will not be allowed unless and until the rules of the Judicial Conference change to permit them. Any person who is found to be recording visually or audibly any proceeding in the Courthouse, or photographing same may be subject to a contempt proceeding and/or any additional remedy or penalty provided by statute in order to enforce the rules of the Judicial Conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 16, 2018.


SHELLY D. DICK, CHIEF JUDGE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA


BRIAN A. JACKSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE


JOHN W. deGRAVELLES
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE