

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

ORDER NO. 386

Approving a Plan for
Media Coverage of Supreme
Court and Trial Courts of
the State of Alaska.

IT IS ORDERED:

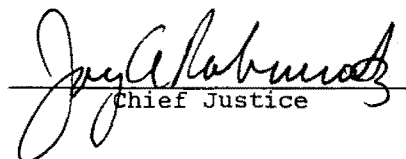
The attached Plan for Media Coverage governing media activity in the Supreme Court and Trial Courts of the State of Alaska is approved.

DATED: September 27, 1979

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 1979


Distribution:

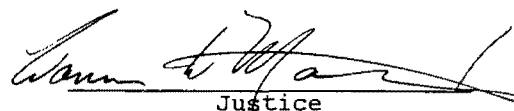
SC Justices
Sup/Ct Judges
Dist/Ct Judges
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Chief Justice

Justice


Justice


Justice


Justice

Justice Roger G. Connor dissents from this order.

PLAN FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

This plan for media coverage of judicial proceedings applies to proceedings conducted by the Supreme, Superior, and District Courts in Alaska.

1. Equipment and Personnel.

(a) No television, radio, or still camera equipment shall be allowed in a courtroom during a trial court proceeding unless prior permission has been obtained from counsel for all parties and the judge presiding at the proceeding.

(b) No television, radio, or still camera equipment shall be allowed in a courtroom during an appellate proceeding in the supreme court unless prior permission has been obtained from the supreme court.

(c) Not more than two portable television cameras (or 16 mm. sound or film cameras), operated by not more than one camera operator each, shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding. In Anchorage, not more than one such camera operated by one camera operator shall be permitted in the hearing room adjacent to the traffic courtroom on the first floor of the "old" court building and in Courtrooms "B", "D", "H", and "K" in the "new" court building unless the judge presiding at a proceeding held in one of these rooms specifically authorizes an additional camera and operator. Not more than two television cameras (or 16 mm. sound or film cameras), operated by not more than one camera operator each, shall be permitted in any supreme court proceeding.

(d) Not more than two still photographers operating not more than two still cameras each shall be permitted in any trial court proceeding. Not more than two still photographers operating not more than two cameras each shall be permitted in any supreme court proceeding.

(e) Not more than two audio systems for radio

broadcast purposes shall be permitted in any proceeding in a trial court or supreme court proceeding.

(f) Audio pickup for all media purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the court facility. The court will provide audio connections for the media at line level output and limited in trial court proceedings to the microphones located at the witness chair and the jury box.

(g) "Pooling" arrangements among the media required by these limitations on equipment and personnel shall be the sole responsibility of the media without calling upon the court or court personnel to mediate any dispute as to the appropriate media representative or equipment authorized to cover a particular proceeding. In the absence of media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the court shall exclude all contesting media from a proceeding.

2. Sound and Light Criteria.

(a) Only television and audio equipment which does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed to cover judicial proceedings. Specifically, such television and audio equipment shall produce no greater sound or light than the equipment designated in Appendix A attached hereto when the same is in good working order. No artificial lighting device of any kind shall be employed in connection with a television camera, and no camera shall give any indication of whether it is or is not operating, such as by use of a red light to note operational status.

(b) Electronic flash or flash cubes, as well as motorized cameras, are prohibited from use in any proceeding. Photographers must use either 35 mm. single lens reflex or rangefinder cameras with shutters no louder than the normal shutter release for a 35 mm. single lens reflex camera.

3. Location of Equipment and Personnel.

(a) Television camera equipment shall be positioned in such location or locations in the courtroom as shall be

designated by the court or a representative of the court.

(b) A still camera photographer shall position himself or herself in a location in the courtroom as shall be designated by the court or a representative of the court, and shall take photographs only from that location. The photographer's movements while taking pictures should be unobtrusive, and he or she should not, for example, assume body positions which would be inappropriate for other spectators.

(c) Radio broadcast audio equipment shall be positioned in such location or locations in the courtroom as shall be designated by the court or a representative of the court.

4. Movement of Equipment During Proceedings.

Television and audio equipment and tripod-mounted still cameras shall not be placed in or removed from the courtroom except prior to commencement or after adjournment of proceedings each day, or during a recess. Neither television film magazines nor still camera film or lenses shall be changed in the courtroom except during a recess in the proceeding.

5. Conferences of Counsel.

To protect the attorney-client privilege and the effective right to counsel, there shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences which occur in the courtroom or the court facility between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel of a client, or between counsel and the judge held at the bench.

6. Behavior and Dress.

Media representatives will be expected to present a neat appearance in keeping with the dignity of the proceedings and will be expected to be sufficiently familiar with court proceedings to conduct themselves so as not to interfere with the dignity of the proceedings, or to distract counsel or the court.

7. Credentials.

Media coverage under this plan shall be allowed only by members of the working press and other media represen-

tatives as approved by the Administrative Director. Before coverage will be allowed, media representatives shall obtain identification from the Administrative Director after presenting such credentials as may be specified by him. Identification shall be worn at all times when covering judicial proceedings.

8. Procedures for Obtaining Approval.

(a) Media personnel desiring to cover a trial court proceeding shall submit a request to the Area Court Administrator on a form provided by the Administrative Director's Office. The Area Court Administrator shall immediately forward the request to the judge assigned to the proceeding. If no judge has been assigned to the proceeding at the time the request is submitted, the request shall be forwarded immediately after assignment is made. It shall be the responsibility of media personnel to obtain written consent from counsel and to submit such consent as part of the request form.

(b) Media personnel desiring to cover a supreme court proceeding shall submit a request to the supreme court through the office of the clerk of the supreme court on a form to be provided by the Administrative Director's Office.

(c) Television and radio media personnel shall contact the Audio-Visual staff in the Administrative Director's Office at least one day in advance of proposed coverage to insure that all equipment will be set up in accordance with this plan and will meet the sound and light criteria set forth herein.

9. Cessation of Coverage.

In any judicial proceeding for which media coverage has been approved, the court may on the motion of either party or on its own motion order media coverage or photography to cease as to any portions of the proceeding when the interest of justice require. In trial court proceedings, no witness, party, or juror who expresses to the judge a prior objection shall be photographed by still or moving camera, nor shall the testimony of such a witness, juror, or party be broadcast or telecast. The court may place limitations on media

coverage of activity in the courtroom or areas adjacent to the courtroom during recesses in the proceeding.

10. Liaison.

The Area Court Administrator shall maintain communication and liaison with media representatives with respect to coverage of trial court proceedings to insure smooth working relationships. The Administrative Director shall provide such liaison with respect to coverage of supreme court proceedings.

11. Agreement of Media Representatives.

All persons who request and are granted permission to cover a judicial proceeding are subject to this plan and agree to abide by its provisions.

Appendix A

FILM CAMERAS - 16mm Sound on Film (self blimped)

1.	CINEMA PRODUCTS	CP-16A-R	Sound Camera
2.	ARRIFLEX	16mm-16BL Model	Sound Camera
3.	FREZZOLINI	16mm (LW16)	Sound on Film Camera
4.	AURICON	"Cini-Voice"	Sound Camera
5.	AURICON	"Pro-600"	Sound Camera
6.	GENERAL CAMERA	SS III	Sound Camera
7.	ECLAIR	Model ACL	Sound Camera
8.	GENERAL CAMERA	DGX	Sound Camera
9.	WILCAM REFLEX	16mm	Sound Camera

VIDEOTAPE ELECTRONIC CAMERAS

1.	Ikegami	HL-77 HL-33 HL-35 HL-34 HL-51
2.	RCA	TK 76
3.	Sony	DXC-1600 Trinitron
3a.	ASACA	ACC-2006
4.	Hitachi	SK 80 SK 90
5.	Hitachi	FP-3030
6.	Philips	LDK-25
7.	Sony BVP-200	ENG Camera
8.	Fernseh	Video Camera
9.	JVC-8800u	ENG Camera
10.	AKAI	CVC-150 VTS-150
11.	Panasonic	WV-3085 NV-3085
12.	JVC	GC-4800u

VIDEOTAPE RECORDERS/used with video cameras

1.	Ikegami	3800
2.	Sony	3800
3.	Sony	BVU-100
4.	Ampex	Video Recorder
5.	Panasonic	1 inch Video Recorder
6.	JVC	4400
7.	Sony	3800H