

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2.068

IN RE:

**TECHNOLOGICAL COVERAGE OF
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.450 (Rule 2.450) authorizes electronic media and still photography coverage of public judicial proceedings in the appellate and trial courts; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2.450 does not authorize photographing, recording or broadcasting in the corridors, hallways or lobbies of courthouse facilities; and

WHEREAS, photographing, recording or broadcasting in the corridors, hallways or lobbies of courthouse facilities has the potential of disrupting other court proceedings and functions, and creating safety hazards; and

WHEREAS, the court must carefully balance the media's news gathering right with the dignity of the judicial process and safety concerns of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge is responsible for the administration of the courts within the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, as provided in Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. For purposes of this Administrative Order, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a) "Courthouse Facility" means any building or other structure in which judicial proceedings may be conducted, including, but not limited to: the Freeman Justice Center, 302 Fleming Street, Key West; the Marathon Courthouse, 3117 Overseas Highway, Marathon; and the Plantation Key Government Center, 88820 Overseas Highway, Plantation Key.

- b) "Photographing, recording or broadcasting" means using portable television and/or video cameras, still cameras, audio system equipment or any other electronic device to take a photograph, make a record or transmit as a broadcast.
2. The following designations are hereby made for location of equipment and personnel when court is in session:
- a) Television equipment shall be positioned behind the last row of each courtroom.
 - b) A still camera photographer shall be positioned in the farthest seat to the right (facing the bench) of the first row.
 - c) A broadcast media representative shall be positioned adjacent to that person designated in section 2(b) above.
 - d) The preceding designations shall apply in all courtrooms throughout the circuit, however, nothing in this administrative order precludes the presiding judge from determining the location of media equipment in a particular court proceeding contrary to the locations listed above or from exercising control of the courtroom while court is in session regarding these issues.
3. No person, including but not limited to photographers, videographers, news reporters and other media personnel shall obstruct or impede in any way the progress of persons on their way into or out from any courtroom, nor shall any person obstruct the ingress or egress of courthouse facilities.
4. Any photographing, recording or broadcasting permitted in a courthouse facility under this Administrative Order shall be conducted in such fashion as to cause minimum noise and distraction. Per Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.450(c), media personnel must demonstrate to the presiding judge adequately in advance of any proceeding that all equipment sought to be used does not produce distracting sound or light and does not require

an artificial lighting device. Failure to obtain advance approval shall preclude its use in any proceeding.

5. The media is required to provide twenty-four (24) hours written notice of its intention to provide coverage of any judicial proceeding. Notice shall be directed to the Court Administrator by identifying the style of the case, case number, date and time of proceeding and presiding judge. This condition is not to limit media access to judicial proceedings, but to facilitate compliance with prescribed "pooling" arrangements per Rule 2.450 (b)(4) and in order for arrangements to be made for equipment to be set up and approved prior to the opening of court.
6. Except as provided in this subsection, limitations on photographing, recording or broadcasting are as follows:
 - a) Lobbies—photographing, recording or broadcasting is not permitted in lobbies of any courthouse facility at any time while court is in session. Any individual or organization seeking the use of the lobby in any courthouse facility for photographing, recording or broadcasting while court is not in session shall provide a written request with twenty-four (24) hour advance notice to the Chief Judge or the Court Administrator.
 - b) Corridors and Hallways—photographing, recording, or broadcasting is not permitted in any corridors or hallways or any courthouse facility at any time court is in session. Any individual or organization seeking the use of a corridor or hallway of any courthouse facility for photographing, recording or broadcasting shall provide a written request with twenty-four (24) hour advance notice to the Chief Judge or the Court Administrator.

- c) Staircases, Stairwells and Elevators—photographing, recording or broadcasting is not permitted at any time in staircases, stairwells or elevators in any courthouse facility.
- d) Courtrooms—subject to the limitations enumerated in Rule 2.450, media coverage of judicial proceedings shall be allowed. The position of any cameras, audio system equipment or electronic devices to take a photograph, make a record or transmit a broadcast when court is in session is outlined above in Section 2. Any individual or organization seeking the use of any courtroom for photographing, recording or broadcasting during a time when court is not in session shall make a request with twenty-four (24) advance notice in writing to the Chief Judge or the Court Administrator. An individual or organization is required to obtain specific authorization from the Chief Judge or Court Administrator prior to photographing, recording or broadcasting during any time when court is not in session.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon the date of execution and shall replace Administrative Order 2.014/97-1 *Electronic Media and Still Photography Coverage of Judicial Proceedings*, which is hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED at Plantation Key, Monroe County, Florida, this 1st day of October, 2010.



Luis Garcia
Chief Judge