

**FILED**  
Clerk of the Superior Court

**DEC 31 2020**

By: A. Husted, Deputy

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8 **THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

10 **IN RE PROCEDURE REGULATING**  
11 **PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDING AND**  
12 **BROADCASTING IN COURTHOUSE**

**GENERAL ORDER OF THE**  
**PRESIDING DEPARTMENT**

**ORDER NO. 010121-02**

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15 **THIS COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:**

16 This Order has been developed for the protection of all persons with business in the Superior  
17 Court of California, County of San Diego courthouse facilities, and to ensure the safe, secure, orderly  
18 and efficient handling of proceedings and court business. This Order is consistent with California  
19 Rules of Court, rule 10.603, which vests in the Presiding Judge the responsibility of establishing  
20 policies and providing a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, as well as  
21 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, which establishes rules for media coverage within the  
22 courtroom. This Order does not replace the Juvenile Court Media Policy, which establishes rules  
23 relating to photography, filming, recording or broadcasting in Juvenile Court Facilities. Requests  
24 for any exceptions to this Order must be submitted to the court's Public Affairs Officer and will be  
25 considered by the Presiding Judge, Assistant Presiding Judge, or their designee.

26 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that absent written judicial authorization, there shall be no  
27 photographing, filming, recording or broadcasting by the media, attorneys, or members of the  
28 general public within any of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego courthouse

1 facilities or grounds, including but not limited to courtrooms, entrances and exits, the lobby areas,  
2 hallways, stairs, elevators and escalators, business offices, and temporary locations that may be set  
3 up from time to time to conduct court business on courthouse grounds outside of the courthouse  
4 building, except: (1) as permitted within a courtroom by a judicial officer under California Rules of  
5 Court, rule 1.150; and (2) those areas specifically designated by the court as media areas that are set  
6 forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto. Courthouse facilities not listed on Exhibit A, including Juvenile  
7 Court and the Kearny Mesa Branch, have no designated media area; any and all photography,  
8 filming, recording, and broadcasting within those facilities or grounds is prohibited without written  
9 judicial authorization. Except for the above-referenced outside temporary locations, this order is not  
10 intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, record or broadcast from outside the entrances  
11 and exits of any courthouse facility, provided such activity does not obstruct access to or from the  
12 building, or compromise security.

13 Videotaping, photography or electronic recording devices must be turned off while they are  
14 transported within any courthouse facility.

15 Any videotaping, photography or electronic recording of the interior of a courtroom through  
16 the windows of the courtroom door is prohibited.

17 Jurors may not be videotaped, photographed or electronically recorded anywhere within a  
18 courthouse facility at any time, with the exception that once jurors have been discharged from a case  
19 and have turned in their juror badges, they may be videotaped, photographed or electronically  
20 recorded in designated media areas only if they consent. Spectators may not be videotaped,  
21 photographed, or electronically recorded within a courtroom at any time, and may be videotaped,  
22 photographed, or electronically recorded outside a courtroom in designated media areas only if they  
23 consent.

24 Camera-enabled devices and devices that capture digital images, such as cell phones, PDA's  
25 or watches, may be brought into the courthouse facilities and courtrooms, as long as the imaging  
26 capturing features are not activated, used or displayed without written authorization from a judicial  
27 officer. Police officers with body worn cameras shall not activate the recording function of the  
28 camera unless involved in a law enforcement activity in the courthouse. Any person who wishes to

1 document, photograph, record, or broadcast any portion of a court proceeding must seek and be  
2 granted prior written judicial approval, and must inform the court security staff of his or her  
3 intentions.

4 This Order is not intended to interfere with or restrict the rights of the media to request  
5 permission from a judicial officer to allow media coverage within a particular courtroom, nor to  
6 interfere with the ability of each judicial officer to rule on such media requests, in conformity with  
7 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

8 This Order does not restrict or otherwise prohibit arrangements set up by the court's Public  
9 Affairs Officer to allow photographing, recording or broadcasting by the media based on individual  
10 circumstances in an alternate location other than those set out in Exhibit A, which requests will be  
11 considered and a response provided by the Presiding Judge, Assistant Presiding Judge, or their  
12 designee.

13 Special Requests for photographing or filming of unoccupied courtrooms or jury rooms, or  
14 employee work areas must be made in writing to the court's Public Affairs Officer.

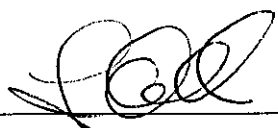
15 A violation of this order may be the basis for an order terminating further media coverage, a  
16 citation for contempt, confiscation of personal electronic devices, and/or an order imposing  
17 monetary or other sanctions.

18 This Order shall expire on December 31, 2021, unless otherwise ordered by this court.

19 Service of this Order shall be made on the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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23 DATED: December 31, 2020

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26 **HONORABLE LORNA A. ALKSNE**  
27 **PRESIDING JUDGE**  
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**EXHIBIT "A"**

1 **GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING DEPARTMENT, ORDER NO. 010121-02**

2 **EXHIBIT A – DESIGNATED MEDIA AREAS**

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4 Photos, videos, press conferences and on-camera statements to members of the media and the  
5 general public are allowed only in the following designated media areas:

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7 **Central Courthouse (1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101)**

- 8     ➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – South End of Hallway, Left of Dept. 102  
9     ➤ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – South End of Hallway, Left of Dept. 202  
10    ➤ 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor – North End of Hallway next to Elevators

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12 **Hall of Justice (330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101)**

- 13    ➤ 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – East or West End of Hallway  
14    ➤ 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – East or West End of Hallway  
15    ➤ 5<sup>th</sup> Floor – East or West End of Hallway  
16    ➤ 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – East or West End of Hallway

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18 **East County Courthouse (250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020)**

- 19    ➤ Ground Floor – Wall, North of Elevator Entrance  
20    ➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Wall, Northeast of Elevator Entrance  
21    ➤ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Wall, North of Dept. 7 or Wall, South of Dept. 8  
22    ➤ 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Wall, North of Dept. 11 or Wall, South of Dept. 10  
23    ➤ 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Wall, North of Dept. 16 at Entrance to Elevator Lobby

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25 **North County Courthouse (325 South Melrose Dr., Vista CA 92081)**

- 26    ➤ 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – North or South of Elevator – Opposite Courtroom Involved in Media Event  
27    ➤ 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – North or South of Elevator – Opposite Courtroom Involved in Media Event  
28    ➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – North Building Lobby – South Wall

1 **South County Courthouse (500 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910)**

2 > 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby – North of the Upward Escalator

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4 Cameras must film toward the wall (as opposed to down the hallway) in these designated areas  
5 that are marked by signage.

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7 Please note: Courthouse facilities not listed on this Exhibit, including Juvenile Court, have no  
8 designated media area. Any and all photography, filming, recording, and broadcasting within  
9 those facilities is prohibited without written judicial authorization.

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