

INTERPRETATION OF GENERAL ORDER 612;

CLARIFICATION REGARDING MEDIA ACCESS

Clarification

General Order 612 provides as follows, in pertinent part:

“Only persons having official court business as authorized by a Judge of the District Court or the Bankruptcy Court, or a healthy building tenant having official business on behalf of a tenant agency, may enter courthouse property.”

“Persons having official court business” is defined to mean only the following essential individuals: counsel representing a party to an item on a published court calendar and a party required by the court to appear in person for the matter calendared. Any other person who believes he or she has a right to attend a court proceeding, and desires to attend the hearing in person, must qualify as someone who is essential to the proceeding, obtain the advance written approval of the judge presiding over the proceeding and present that approval to court security in order to enter courthouse property.

Media Access

The court recognizes the Constitutional right of the media to access court proceedings on behalf of the public. Therefore, a member of the media may enter courthouse property upon presenting bonafide press credentials to court security and identifying a court proceeding that person will attend. If a member of the media wishes to monitor a court proceeding telephonically, that person shall contact the Courtroom Deputy for the judge presiding over the proceeding. Upon the media representative’s presentation of bonafide press credentials to the Courtroom Deputy, the Courtroom Deputy will provide instructions for allowing telephone access on a secure line, at no cost, to listen to the hearing with all other court rules in effect including the standing prohibition on audio recording.