



Supreme Court Etiquette for Media

- ❖ The news media are authorized to record proceedings of the Supreme Court, except when the Chief Justice directs otherwise prior to or during the proceeding in question.
- ❖ Judges are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct and cannot comment on any ongoing or pending case in any court. This rule extends to court personnel.
- ❖ Your beeper and/or cell phone must be turned off or put on “vibrate” mode.

Special Rules for Cameras and Recording Equipment

The Vermont Supreme Court has adopted Vermont Court Rules of Appellate Procedure 35 for the use of cameras, recording equipment and media personnel in the courtroom. The Chief Justice authorizes and may revoke the use of cameras and other recording equipment at any time without prior notice. Additionally:

- ❖ There shall be no audio recording of conferences between members of the Court, between co-counsel or between counsel and client.
- ❖ No recording equipment permitted under these rules shall be operated during a recess.
- ❖ Not more than **two portable television cameras** – film cameras, 16 mm sound on film (self-blinded) or videotape electronic cameras – each one operated by not more than one camera person, shall be permitted in any Court proceeding. Videotape recording equipment and other equipment which are not component parts of a television camera shall be located outside the courtroom.
- ❖ Not more than **one still photographer**, utilizing not more than two still cameras with not more than two lenses for each camera and related equipment for print purposes shall be permitted in any court proceeding. Such cameras shall produce no greater sound than a 35 mm Leica “M” Series rangefinder camera.

- ❖ Not more than **one audio system** for televising, broadcasting and recording purposes shall be permitted in any proceeding. Audio pickup for all media purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the Court facility, where practicable.
- ❖ Any “pooling” arrangements among the media required by these limitations on equipment and personnel shall be the sole responsibility of the media.
- ❖ Only equipment that does not produce distracting sound or light shall be employed. **No artificial lighting** device of any kind shall be employed.
- ❖ Operators will be assigned a position in the courtroom designated by the Chief Justice. Be in position at least 15 minutes before court begins. Operators shall not move from the area assigned to them and shall not move about so as to call attention to themselves.
- ❖ Equipment shall not be placed in or removed from the Court facility except prior to commencement or after adjournment of proceedings, or during a recess.
- ❖ Neither television film magazines nor still camera film or lenses shall be changed within the courtroom except during a recess in the proceeding.