UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: Courthouse Security and Limitations on the Possession and Use of Personal Electronic Devices within United States Courthouses and United States Court Facilities in the Western District of New York	**GENERAL ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Except as provided in this Order, no person may possess or use a camera, transmitter, receiver, recording device or Personal Electronic Device[1] in the United States Courthouses and United States Court facilities in the Western District of New York. Notwithstanding the exceptions set forth below, under no circumstances shall any Personal Electronic Device be utilized to photograph, broadcast or transmit judicial proceedings or to conduct audio or video recordings of judicial proceedings, whether these proceedings are held in open court or in the chambers of a judge of this Court. See Rule 53 of the Local Rules of Criminal Procedure; Rule 83.5 of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure; and Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures, vol. 10, ch. 4 and 5.

2. Upon request to the Chief Judge of the District Court or presiding judge, magistrate judge or bankruptcy court judge, the Court may allow the use of cameras and other equipment during ceremonial proceedings, including naturalization proceedings, mock trials, or a judge's investiture. Media cameras shall be allowed in the first floor public lobbies of the courthouses or court facilities, but shall not be allowed beyond the first floor or into any area occupied by the Court without the permission of the Chief Judge of the District Court.

3 Court officials (District and Bankruptcy Court personnel, United States Probation Office personnel, United States Marshal Service personnel, Federal Protective Service personnel, General Services Administration building personnel, and contractors employed by these agencies) engaged in the conduct of court business are permitted to bring any camera, transmitter, receiver, recording device or Personal Electronic Device into the courthouses and court facilities of this District.

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[1] "Personal Electronic Device" includes any cellular telephone, Palm Pilot, iPhone, Blackberry, personal digital assistant, and any other comparable device.

4 Any member of the Bar of this Court, acting in his/her professional capacity and not as a litigant in a case in this District, and who possesses a valid Court-issued Identification Card[2], or is an attorney with the United States Attorney's Office, an attorney with the Office of the United States Trustee (including Bankruptcy Trustees), or an attorney with the Federal Public Defender's Office may bring Personal Electronic Devices into the courthouses and court facilities of this District for that attorney's own use. The Personal Electronic Devices may not be shared with any other person and must not be used in a manner that disrupts or interferes with any judicial proceeding. No Personal Electronic Devices may be brought into any courtroom or judicial chambers if the judge, magistrate judge or bankruptcy judge to whom the courtroom or chambers is assigned prohibits such devices.

5. Members of the Bar permitted to bring their Personal Electronic Devices into the courthouse must ensure that such Devices are turned off beyond the first floor lobby of the courthouse or court facility and may not turn them on or use them beyond the first floor lobby for any reason without the express permission of the presiding judge, magistrate judge or bankruptcy judge. Court officials may use their Personal Electronic Devices anywhere in the courthouse when engaged in the conduct of court business, except such devices shall be turned off or placed on vibrate mode while in any courtroom.

6. Any violation of this Order may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, a fine of up to $100 and forfeiture of the privileges granted by this Order. If so ordered, members of the Bar who violate this Order shall be required to immediately surrender their Identification Card to the District Court Clerk's Office, or a court official designated by the presiding judge, magistrate judge or bankruptcy judge.

7. The Chief Judge or, in the absence of the Chief Judge, the Clerk of the Court, may suspend the privileges granted by this Order at any time for any reason.

8. The effective date of this Order shall be June 15, 2010.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ William M. Skretny
WILLIAM M. SKRETNY
Chief Judge
United States District Court

Dated: May 14, 2010
Buffalo, New York

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[2] Identification Cards shall be issued by the District Court Clerk's Office to any attorney who has been admitted to the Bar of this Court, upon in-person request.