IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 93-(1)(1) 11-(2)

ADOPTION OF RULES FOR RECORDING, BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

ORDERED:

The attached rules are adopted governing the recording, broadcasting and photographing of proceedings in this court. TEX. R. APP. P. 21.

SIGNED AND ENTERED this tt day of October, 1992.

Thomas R. Phillian
Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice
Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice
Oscar H. Mauzy, Justice
Eugene A. Cook, Justice
Jan John
Jack Hightower, Justice
Vallen C. Sant
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice
Hol Dogen
Lloyd Doggett, Justice
John (ormyn
John Cornyn, Justice
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RULES GOVERNING THE RECORDING, BROADCASTING OR PHOTOGRAPHING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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Pursuant to Rule 21 of the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, the following rules govern the recording and broadcasting of court proceedings in The Supreme Court of Texas.

- 1. Policy. These rules allow electronic recording, broadcasting, and photography of proceedings in this court to facilitate the free flow of information to the public concerning the judicial system and to foster better public understanding about the administration of justice. These rules are to be construed to provide the greatest access possible while at the same time maintaining the dignity, decorum and impartiality of court proceedings.
- 2. Equipment and personnel. Unless the court in its discretion orders otherwise, the following standards apply to the placement and operation of equipment:
- 2.1. The Clerk of the Supreme Court should normally be notified of the planned use of recording, broadcasting or photography no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to scheduled argument. A demonstration of equipment may be required to ensure compliance with these rules.
- 2.2. To avoid disruption of proceedings by an excessive number of cameras, the court encourages media agencies to make pool arrangements. When necessary, the court may designate a pool coordinator and specify other conditions for pool coverage.
- 2.3. All personnel and equipment shall be in place within designated areas of the courtroom prior to the commencement of proceedings and shall not be moved during proceedings. No proceeding will be delayed for the sole purpose of allowing recording, broadcasting and photography.
- 2.4. Equipment shall not produce distracting sound or light. Signal lights or devices which show when equipment is operating shall not be visible. Moving lights, flash attachments, or sudden lighting changes shall not be used. Existing courtroom sound and lighting systems shall be used without modification unless the court specifically approves modification.
- **2.5.** Personnel operating outside the courtroom shall not create a distraction nor restrict access through the courtroom door.
- 3. Enforcement. A violation of these rules may be sanctioned by appropriate measures, including, without limitation, barring the particular person or agency from access to coverage of proceedings for a defined period of time.

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