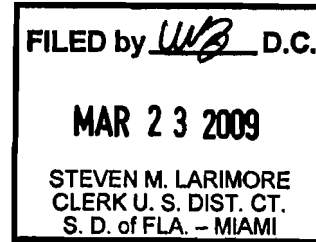


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2009-12

**IN RE: PROHIBITION ON ELECTRONIC  
TRANSMISSIONS AND CELLULAR PHONE  
USE INSIDE COURTROOMS**

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In view of the Judicial Conference of the United States's policy and the prohibitions contained in Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 53 and Southern District of Florida Local Rule 77.1 against live broadcasting from inside courtrooms, this Order amends Administrative Orders 2006-16 and 2008-07 to prohibit text messaging, emailing, twittering, typing, and any cellular phone use from inside courtrooms. These actions by persons inside the courtroom violate the sanctity of the courtroom and disrupt ongoing judicial proceedings.

The Court, however, must balance the interests of preserving the conduct of judicial proceedings against the public's right to know what happens inside courtrooms. Accordingly, it is

**ADJUDGED** that emailing, text messaging, twittering, typing, and using cellular phones shall continue to be prohibited inside the District's courtrooms. It is also

**ADJUDGED** that to balance the interest in preserving the sanctity and conduct of judicial proceedings against the public's right to know what occurs inside the District's courtrooms, this Order amends Administrative Orders 2006-16 and 2008-07 to allow news reporters to bring cellular phones, Blackberries, iPhones, Palm Pilots, and other similar electronic personal digital assistants (PDAs) into the courthouse consistent with what is permitted of attorneys, as long as the news reporters agree in writing not to email, text message, twitter, type, or use their cellular phones or other electronic device inside the District's courtrooms. A violation of the agreement will result in

contempt of court. The Clerk of Court shall keep the list of reporters who have signed such agreement and make that list available to Court security personnel assigned to each courthouse. The Clerk of Court shall also make space available in each courthouse for those listed reporters to use their cellular phones and other electronic devices outside of the courtrooms. Of course, District and Magistrate Judges retain the discretion to maintain order in their courtrooms, which includes the right to lock their courtrooms should the entry and exit of news reporters become disruptive in a particular proceeding.

DONE and ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009.

  
FEDERICO A. MORENO  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All Southern District and Magistrate Judges  
Steven M. Larimore, Clerk of Court  
Christina Pharo, U.S. Marshal  
Alex Acosta, United States Attorney  
Kathy Williams, Federal Public Defender  
Reginald D. Michael, Chief Probation Officer  
Edward Sieber, Case Assignment Administrator  
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