

GENERAL ORDER No. 65
CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM PILOT PROJECT

Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and policies of the Judicial Conference of the United States (“JCUS”) prohibit, in both civil and criminal proceedings in federal district courts, the taking of photographs in courtrooms during judicial proceedings and the broadcasting of judicial proceedings from courtrooms. To evaluate the effect of cameras in courtrooms, the JCUS, in consultation with the Federal Judicial Center, undertook a pilot project to allow, subject to tightly-drawn parameters, the recording of proceedings in selected district courts beginning July 18, 2011 (the “pilot project”).

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California was one of the fourteen participating district courts in the pilot project. The national pilot project concluded on July 18, 2015, but this district has been authorized by the JCUS and the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council to continue to record proceedings and to post them on uscourts.gov. The program will continue to be governed by: the national “Pilot Guidelines” available at cand.uscourts.gov/cameras/guidelines; the procedures to implement the pilot project adopted by this Court and published at cand.uscourts.gov/cameras; and this General Order.

ADOPTED: September 1, 2011
AMENDED: November 17, 2015
AMENDED: July 19, 2016

FOR THE COURT:



Phyllis J. Hamilton
Chief Judge