



FRANCES M. TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD
Chief Judge

District Court of Guam

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520 WEST SOLEDAD AVENUE
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96910
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JEANNE G. QUINATA
Clerk of Court

June 17, 2011

Buenas yan Hafa Adai,

I am happy to announce that the District Court of Guam is one of thirteen districts that have been selected as pilot sites for the "Cameras in the Courtroom" pilot project of the Judicial Conference of the United States. As a participant in this pilot project, certain non-jury civil proceedings, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge and the parties involved, will be permitted to be captured by video recording by court staff and disseminated to interested media outlets.

In order to participate in this project, the Court must implement some modifications to its Local Rule of Practice GR 15.1 and give appropriate public notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to 28 USC § 2071(b). I invite members of the Guam Bar Association, journalists, and the public to review the proposed changes to GR 15.1, which are attached, and submit comments to the court on those changes.

Comments may be submitted at the Clerk's Office intake counter, by facsimile at (671) 473-9152, by email to charles_white@gud.uscourts.gov, or by U.S. mail to:

Charles White
Chief Deputy Clerk
520 W. Soledad Ave.
Hagatna, GU 96910

I will accept all comments submitted by July 5, 2011. Si Yu'us Ma'åse'.

Sincerely,

Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge

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PROPOSED

DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM
TERRITORY OF GUAM

IN RE:
LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE,
AMENDMENT TO GR 15.1

GENERAL ORDER NO. _____

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that General Rule 15.1 of the Local Rules of Practice for the District Court of Guam is amended as follows:

GR 15.1 Pretrial and Trial Publicity.

(a) Broadcasting, Televising, Recording or Photographing Judicial and Grand Jury Proceedings.

(1) The taking of photographs, operation of tape recorders or radio or television broadcasting in the ~~courtroom~~, grand jury room, and ~~its~~ ~~their~~ environs (i.e., the ~~third and fourth floors~~ second floor of the U.S. Courthouse; and the hallways and public areas leading to, and the hearing, waiting, or witness rooms utilized by the Grand Jury) during the progress of or in connection with any proceeding, including proceedings before a United States Grand Jury, whether or not actually in session, is prohibited.

(2) A judge may, however, permit (1) the use of electronic or photographic means for the presentation of the evidence or the perpetuation of a record by a court reporter, and (2) the broadcasting, televising, recording or photographing of investiture, ceremonial,

1 or naturalization proceedings. Attorneys for the United States may use recording
2 devices to present evidence to a grand jury.

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4 (3) Coverage of certain civil non-jury proceedings in open court is permitted with the
5 approval of the Chief Judge of this court, unless prohibited by rule or statute.

6 (a) There shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences between
7 attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel, or sidebar conversations.

8 (b) Parties in a bench trial must consent to the video or photographic recording
9 of the proceedings.

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11 (4) The judge presiding over the hearing may limit or terminate media coverage, or
12 direct the removal of camera coverage personnel when necessary to protect the rights
13 of the parties or to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

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15 (5) Proceedings will be recorded by Court personnel only. No recordings by other
16 entities or persons will be allowed. The Clerk of Court, or designee, shall identify the
17 location in the courtroom for the camera equipment and operators.

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19 (6) Equipment shall not produce distracting sound or light. Signal lights or devices to
20 show when equipment is operating shall not be visible. Motorized drives, moving
21 lights, flash attachments, or sudden light changes shall not be used. Still cameras that
22 do not operate quietly will not be used at any time when court is in session.

23
24 (7) All equipment must be set up prior to the opening of the court session and may not
25 be removed until after the conclusion of the court sessions, or during a court recess.
26 Camera operators shall wear suitable attire in the courtroom.

27
28 (b) Publicity. The Court personnel, including but not limited to marshals, clerks and deputies,
law clerks, secretaries, messengers, interpreters and court reporters, shall not disclose to any

1 person information relating to any pending proceeding that is not part of the public records of
2 the Court without specific authorization of the Court.

3
4 (c) Officers of this Court. In criminal cases or proceedings before any judge of this Court,
5 prosecuting attorneys and defense counsel, as officers of this Court, and their associates,
6 assistants, agents, enforcement officers and investigators, shall refrain from making, or
7 advising or encouraging others to make to, for, or in the press, or on radio, television or other
8 news media, statements concerning the parties, witnesses, merits of cases, probable evidence,
9 or other matters which are likely to prejudice the ability of either the government or the
10 defendant to obtain a fair trial.

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12 SO ORDERED this ___ day of _____, 2011.

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15 FRANCES M. TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD
16 Chief Judge
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