2010 MAR -9 AM 11:00
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
CLEVELAND

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 2009-21

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

IN RE: CELL PHONES, CAMERAS, LAPTOPS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN U.S. COURTHOUSES	)))	AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 2009-21

1. This Order applies to all participants in the courtroom, including spectators.

2. General Order 2006-11 captioned "In re: Cell Phones in U.S. Courthouses," entered May 11, 2006, is hereby vacated;

3. This Order acknowledges and reaffirms the Court's policy set forth in Local Rule 83.1 prohibiting "the taking of photographs in the courtroom or its environs, radio or television broadcasting, and the use of equipment incident to radio or television broadcasting from the courtroom or its environs, during the progress of and in connection with judicial proceedings, both civil and criminal, whether or not court is actually in session . . . " and the use or activation of audio/video cameras, audio recorders, and similar devices in the Court House.

4. The taking of photographs, the making of audio/video recordings, and radio, television and internet broadcasting are prohibited in the Court House. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off prior to entering courtrooms.

5. Cellular phones may be used to make phone calls from outside the courtrooms only, absent approval from the presiding judicial officer. Counsel of record may use laptops at the counsel tables provided that the rules prohibiting photography, recording and broadcasting are not violated.

6. Judicial Officers have the authority to prohibit cell phones, hand-held devices and laptop computers capable of taking, recording, storing and/or transmitting audio, photo and/or video-data from their courtroom and chambers and the presiding judge may direct screening procedures to be conducted by the Court Security Officers.

7. Court staff, court security officers, and deputy marshals are authorized to seize and inspect devices suspected of being used in violation of these rules. Seized devices will not be returned

until the conclusion of all proceedings at the direction of the presiding judicial officer. Violators will be subject to sanction for contempt of court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

For the Court

James G. Carr
Chief Judge
United States District Court