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**Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: PUBLIC AND MEDIA ACCESS
TO JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS DURING
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Standing Order No. 20-20 (BAH)

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

ORDER

In order to facilitate public and media access to judicial proceedings conducted via videoconference or teleconference, given that in-person proceedings at the courthouse in civil, criminal and miscellaneous matters have been suspended due to health and safety concerns during the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, *see* Standing Order Nos. 20-09, 20-17 and 20-19, consistent with the temporary exception approved by the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference to the Judicial Conference's policy generally prohibiting the broadcasting of proceedings in federal district courts, *see* Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 10, Ch. 4, which exception will expire upon a finding by the Judicial Conference that the emergency conditions due to the emergency declared by the President with respect to COVID-19 are no longer materially affecting the functioning of the federal courts generally or a particular district,¹ it is hereby –

¹ *See* Memoranda of James C. Duff, Dir. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, *Use Of Teleconference Technology To Provide The Public And Media Access To Court Proceedings* (March 31, 2020), available at <http://jnet.ao.dcn/sites/default/files/pdf/DIR20-054.pdf> and *Guidance on the Use of Video and Teleconference Technology To Provide Access to the Public and the Press in Criminal Proceedings* (April 2, 2020) (noting that March 31, 2020 Memorandum addressed teleconferencing in civil proceedings), available at http://jnet.ao.dcn/sites/default/files/pdf/DIR20-059_0.pdf. *See also* *Judiciary Authorizes Video/Audio Access During COVID-19 Pandemic*, UNITED STATES COURTS, <https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2020/03/31/judiciary-authorizes-videoaudio-access-during-covid-19-pandemic> (describing the March 31, 2020 memorandum) (last visited Apr. 8, 2020); *Judiciary Provides Public, Media Access to Electronic Court Proceedings*, UNITED STATES COURTS, <https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2020/04/03/judiciary-provides-public-media-access-electronic-court-proceedings> (describing the April 2, 2020 memorandum) (last visited Apr. 8, 2020).

ORDERED that video or audio access to judicial proceedings in civil, criminal and miscellaneous matters will be provided to the public and the media, with the consent of the presiding judge, when the proceeding is conducted using video and/or audio teleconferencing, notwithstanding the general ban on broadcasting of proceedings in federal district court set out in the Judicial Conference's Guide to Judiciary Policy, and in FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 53, D.D.C. LOCAL CIVIL RULE 83.1 and D.D.C. LOCAL CRIMINAL RULE 53.1.1; it is further

ORDERED that the public or media using remote video or audio access to judicial proceedings are not permitted to photograph, record, or rebroadcast the proceedings; it is further

ORDERED that any member of the public or media who violates the prohibitions governing remote video or audio access to judicial proceedings may be subject to sanctions, including contempt sanctions, removal of court issued media credentials, restricted or denial of entry to future hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary and appropriate by the presiding judge; and it is further

ORDERED that the authorization detailed in this Order will expire upon the conclusion of the public health emergency or further order of this Court, whichever is earlier.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 8, 2020

The image shows a circular seal on the left and a handwritten signature in cursive on the right. The signature appears to read "Beryl A. Howell".

BERYL A. HOWELL
Chief Judge