

United States Courts
District of Columbia Circuit
333 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Sri Srinivasan
Chief Judge

Beryl A. Howell
Chief Judge

NOTICE – RESTRICTED ACCESS

(Updated April 2, 2021)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since March 13, 2020, the E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse and the William B. Bryant Annex (collectively “the Courthouse”) has been subject to stringent access restrictions. Please be advised that, **effective April 5, 2021**, access to the Courthouse is expanded to a limited extent due to the gradual resumption of jury trials but that significant restrictions remain to protect the health and safety of the community and those working in and visiting the courthouse. The ongoing need for entry restrictions will be regularly assessed, and these restrictions will be updated as warranted given current pandemic conditions.

General Restrictions: Entry to the Courthouse remains restricted to judges, court staff, other government employees working in the courthouse, jurors, members of the media, attorneys, parties, and other authorized individuals with official business before the courts or authorized to use the courthouse cafeteria. In addition, a limited number of members of the public may be allowed entry, as space allows, for viewing live video streams of trials from a dedicated location within the courthouse.

Mask Requirement: All individuals entering the Courthouse must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times while in public areas, including courtrooms, hallways, restrooms and elevators.

Remote Audio Access to D.C. Circuit Proceedings: Proceedings before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit continue to be held remotely. Any interested individual may listen to these proceedings by following the instructions [here](#).

Remote Audio Access to District Court Proceedings: Any interested individual may listen to District Court proceedings by using a [call-in line](#) assigned to the

presiding judge. Further information may be found [here](#). In addition, certain civil proceedings may be audio streamed on the District Court's [YouTube channel](#). Additional information may be found [here](#).

On-Site Media Access to Video Stream of District Court Proceedings (Other Than Trials): Upon request made in advance, credentialed members of the media may be permitted, as space and technology allows, to view a video stream of District Court proceedings from a courtroom or dedicated Media Room within the Courthouse. Media requests for on-site access to a video stream of proceedings may be made [here](#). Use of electronic equipment for contemporaneous reporting by members of the media is only permitted within a dedicated Media Room, subject to the Media Room Rules of Use.

On-Site Public and Media Access to Video Stream of Trials: Media and interested members of the public will be permitted, as space allows, on a first-come basis, to view a video stream of a trial from a dedicated public access space within the Courthouse. Upon entry into the Courthouse for this purpose, the individual must go directly to the dedicated space and remain there until departure, with reentry to the courthouse to observe the video stream of the trial permitted only as space allows. Courthouse rules barring use of electronic equipment apply in the public access space. The Court may also open a dedicated Media Room for use during trials. A limited number of credentialed members of the media may use this room subject to the Media Room Rules of Use.

Access to In-Person Proceedings: Attorneys appearing for in-person proceedings before the District or Bankruptcy Courts must show a bar membership card when requested upon entry to the Courthouse. Parties or witnesses appearing should have the case number and case name available. Jurors should show their juror badge. Members of the media must show their credentials. At this time, public access to in-person proceedings is provided through remote audio access lines and, for trials, through on-site live video streams as well as remote audio access. Members of the public requesting entry to the Courthouse to view a live video stream of a trial should identify the case in which they are interested.

Clerk's Offices: Individuals delivering filings, pleadings and briefs must use the drop box at the entrance to the Bryant Annex on Third Street, except individuals with emergency or sealed filings may not use the drop box and must contact the

appropriate Clerk's Office for further instructions. Individuals who need to pay fines, make restitution payments, or obtain certifications should contact the appropriate Clerk's Office or refer to instructions on the relevant court's website.

Probation and Pretrial Matters: Defendants under supervision with the Probation Office or the Pretrial Services Agency will be permitted to proceed to the Probation Office or the Pretrial Services Agency.

Cafeteria Access: The cafeteria is open for limited service for judges, court staff and government employees working in the courthouse, jurors and others with official business before the courts. Judges, court staff, and jurors from the D.C. Court of Appeals and the D.C. Superior Court are authorized to use the cafeteria and should show their court identification upon entry to the courthouse. All authorized individuals are encouraged to use the cafeteria's online ordering system as directed.

Health Screening: All health screening requirements remain in effect. Any person who has been diagnosed with or exposed to the COVID-19 virus within the prior 14 days, asked to self-quarantine or experiencing flu-like symptoms should **not** enter the courthouse. Instead, please call the appropriate office for assistance:

D.C. Circuit Clerk's Office 202.216.7300
District & Bankruptcy Courts Clerk's Office 202.354.3120
District Court Jury Office 202.354.3360
Probation Office 202.565.1300
Pretrial Services Agency 202.442.1000
Circuit Executive's Office 202.216.7340

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