UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: Courthouse Policy Regarding Computers, Portable Telephones, and Electronic Communication Devices.

Misc. No. 4: 95MC40111

Administrative Order

The following policy has been adopted by all of the Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, and shall apply in the courthouses of all four divisions of the district:

(1) Lawyers, in attendance at a hearing or trial in which they (or their firm) are counsel of record for any party, may utilize a laptop computer for such trial/hearing purposes, but the laptop shall not have the capability of recording images (tv camera attached) or voice. Laptop computers may also be utilized in the designated attorneys' lounges of any courthouse. No other person, including members of the press, shall be authorized to possess or utilize a laptop computer in the courtrooms or hearing rooms, or bring such equipment onto the secured floors of the courthouse. If the individual or the individual's employer agency maintains an office in the courthouse, this policy shall not prohibit an individual from bringing a laptop computer into that private office area.

(2) No individual, including federal/state/municipal law enforcement officers or federal employees, shall be permitted to bring any type of paging device, whether voice or alpha/numerical, or any cell phone, onto any secured floor of the courthouse, or into any courtroom or hearing room. If the individual or the individual's employer agency maintains an office in the courthouse, this policy shall not prohibit an individual from bringing such device into that private office area. Cellular telephones may be

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(Rules 68 & 79(a) FRCP or 58(b)(1) & 66 FRCP)
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used in the courthouse lobbies within view of Court Security Officers.

(3) This policy is not intended to, nor shall it prohibit, the use of electronic or photographic equipment by attorneys or their staff in the presentation of any evidence, or the use of any evidence presentation system of, or authorized by, the court. In such case, however, prior notice shall be given to the presiding judge of the trial and/or hearing so that proper arrangements for such use may be made with the courthouse security staff.

This policy shall be effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED this 14th day of July, 2000.

ROGER VINSON
Chief Judge