

## **POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURTROOMS**

1. Electronic devices, such as a smart phone, tablet, laptop computer, or a similar functioning device having wireless communications capability may be brought into and used within the courtroom. The courtroom has wireless internet service and the password may be secured from the Courtroom Deputy.
2. Telephone ring tones and other functional sounds produced by devices (including, but not limited to, “vibrate”) **MUST** be disabled while in the courtroom. Only quiet keyboards may be used in the courtroom.
3. No person may use such devices within the courtroom to make or receive telephone calls, or to take photographs, or for audio or video recording or transmission, absent prior approval of the court.
4. Persons may use such devices to take notes, transmit and receive data communications, and access the Internet, but **MUST NOT** use such devices to transmit accounts of proceedings through social networks, blogs, or similar platforms nor to communicate with attorneys, parties, or witnesses during ongoing court proceedings.
5. Media members may transmit written accounts of the proceedings to a wider audience using various means. Media members **MUST NOT** use these devices for telephone calls, photographs, or audio or video recording or transmission.
6. The court reserves the right, at any time, (a) to prohibit or further restrict the use of such devices by all persons prior to or during a proceeding when necessary to protect the rights of the parties or to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings; and (b) to prohibit or further restrict the use of such devices by any person abusing the privilege to use an electronic device in the courtroom under this policy.