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CHIEF JUDGE DIRECTIVE 13-01

DATE: January 18, 2013

TO: All Judges, All Court Commissioners, District Court Administrator, Deputy District Court Administrator, County Executive, Clerk of Circuit Court, Corporation Counsel, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney, Public Defender, DAS Fiscal Affairs, Court Coordinators, Managing Court Reporter, Justice 2000, WCS, Legal Resource Center, Facilities Management, Press

FROM: Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers

RE: REVISION OF LOCAL RULES

Wis. Stat. § 753.35(1), SCR 70.19(3), SCR 70.21(15e) and SCR 70.34 vests authority in the chief judge to prescribe local rules governing practices in the circuit court. Pursuant to this authority, and local rules 1.1B. The local rules are revised as follows:

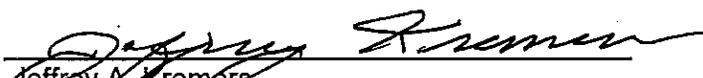
IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED that, effective immediately, Local Rule 1.23 concerning electronic devices in the courtroom is amended as reflected in the attached document.

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that, these rules shall be filed with the clerk of circuit court.

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that, the clerk of circuit court shall send a copy of these rules to the secretary of the Milwaukee Bar Association, the District Court Administrator for the First Judicial District, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the state law library, and the office of the Director of State Courts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, these rules and the appendices referenced in the rules shall be published on the Chief Judge page of the Milwaukee County website and on the website of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 18th day of January, 2013.


Jeffrey A. Kremers
Chief Judge

JAK: dla
Attachments (1)

1.23 Courtroom Attire and Decorum

B. Electronic Devices:

1. Lawyers Inside the Courtroom Bar:

Absent specific direction from the Judge or Court Commissioner presiding in that courtroom, lawyers located inside the courtroom bar may use electronic devices for professional purposes, except they may not use them for oral communication or audio or video recording without the judge or court commissioner's permission. Earpieces for such devices shall not be worn in the courtroom or court commissioner's hearing room absent specific authorization from the judge or court commissioner. Each Judge and Court Commissioner may make exceptions to these rules as they think appropriate.

2. Everyone Outside the Courtroom Bar:

Absent specific authorization from the Judge or Court Commissioner presiding in that courtroom, all electronic devices shall be turned off when in a courtroom or a commissioner's hearing room and microphones or earpieces for such devices shall not be worn in a courtroom or commissioner's hearing room. Each Judge and Court Commissioner may make exceptions to these rules as they think appropriate.

3. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular and mobile phones, pagers, iPads, tablets, lap top computers or any other electronic devices.

C. Lawyers, litigants, witnesses and all other members of the public shall conduct themselves in a manner which demonstrates sensitivity to the necessity of preserving decorum and the integrity of the judicial process. Only attorneys and members of their staff may be seated in front of the bar while waiting for their case(s) to be called. Absent specific authorization from the Judge or Court Commissioner presiding in the courtroom, the following are prohibited from courtrooms and commissioner hearing rooms:

1. the reading of newspapers; and
2. food or beverages, except water.

Each Judge and Court Commissioner may make exceptions to these rules as they think appropriate.

1.26 Photography in Courtrooms

No photography of any kind or by any means, including still and video photography, is permitted in any courtroom, except of a wedding or adoption or as provided by SCR Chapter 61. Each Judge and Court Commissioner may make exceptions to these rules as they think appropriate.