## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

## J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building and United States Courthouse

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Courthouse Logistics for Media and Members of the Public Attending the Sentencing on December 12, 2024, in Courtroom 4A, in the matter of *The United States of America v. Robert Hunter Biden* 

The J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building and United States Courthouse is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. All visitors are screened by Court Security Officers upon entry to the building. All visitors must present a valid physical government-issue photo identification. Weapons of any kind are prohibited in the building.

In accordance with the Court's Electronic Devices Standing Order (attached), electronic devices, including cell phones, laptop computers, tablets, smart watches, etc., are not permitted in the building unless they can fit in the locked pouch provided by the United States Marshals Service. For reference purposes, the locked pouch typically fits 1-2 cell phones.

Members of the District of Delaware press who have obtained In-House Press Credentials from the Clerk of the Court are, however, authorized to bring electronic devices into the courthouse. Such members must wear their In-House Press Credentials in a conspicuous location on their person at all times when present in the Courthouse. No electronic devices of any kind may be turned on or used in Courtroom 4A. Instead, Delaware credentialed press may use their electronics in the hallways or in the overflow room (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room).

On Thursday, December 12, 2024, Courtroom 4A will open at 12:00 PM. Seating in the courtroom will be available on a first come, first served basis.

To ensure fair access to the courtroom, only two members from each news outlet will be allowed to sit in the courtroom. In the event the courtroom does not fill to capacity, additional members of news organizations will be allowed entry until the courtroom is full. Those not able to attend the hearing in the courtroom will have access to view the proceeding via video stream in the overflow room (the Court's 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room).

## **FAQs:**

Can members of the public or media reserve a seat in the courtroom in advance of the proceeding?

• No. Seats will be given out on a first come, first served basis consistent with the procedures outlined above.

# Will the Court allow any exception to the Electronic Devices Standing Order for the proceeding?

 No. This Court does not allow members of the press or the public to photograph, film, or record court proceedings. Electronic devices will not be permitted in the building except for those that can fit inside the locked pouch provided by the U.S. Marshals Service. Electronic devices will remain in the locked pouch in the possession of the visitor while in the courthouse. Laptops will not be approved to bring into the building.

## Will reporters need to obtain any clearance or press pass to cover the hearing?

• No. Other than members of the District of Delaware press who wish to bring electronic devices into the courthouse and have obtained In-House Press Credentials, members of the media do not need to obtain court-provided press credentials. Reporters should carry their press credentials with them into the building. As with any visitor entering a federal courthouse, a valid form of government issued identification is required. Seating in the courtroom will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with each media outlet authorized two seats in the gallery.

## How will I get my electronic device back if I put it in the locked pouch?

• Before exiting the courthouse, a Court Security Officer will unlock the pouch, at which time the visitor will be able to retrieve the visitor's personal device(s).

## Where can media trucks park the day of the proceeding?

• At the direction of the City of Wilmington, media vans will be authorized to park on King Street, between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, on the block past the courthouse until capacity is met. Please note that this location has limited space and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

## Where can the press setup cameras outside of the courthouse?

• The Federal Protective Service will be in front of the courthouse the morning of December 12, 2024, and will direct press to designated media staging areas. Members of the media may not block entry into or exit from the courthouse.

## If I need to leave the courtroom during the proceeding, will I be allowed back in?

• Should you need to leave the proceeding prior to the hearing being finalized, you will not be allowed to re-enter. Entry into the courtroom will be limited once the proceeding begins. Members of the public and press, however, may come and go from the overflow room.

#### How can the media obtain transcripts?

• Members of the media may order copies of trial transcripts directly from the court reporter. Do not contact the Clerk's Office to request a transcript.

• Dale Hawkins will be the court reporter for this proceeding. He can be reached at <a href="Dale\_Hawkins@ded.uscourts.gov">Dale\_Hawkins@ded.uscourts.gov</a>. You may contact him to request an estimate of the price of the transcript. Transcript preparation and delivery times will begin when payment has been satisfied.

## Can food/beverages be brought into the Courthouse?

• Food/beverages may only be consumed inside the overflow room (the Court's 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Jury Assembly Room). Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Additional questions can be directed to <u>press\_request@ded.uscourts.gov</u>. Please note: Court staff cannot comment on litigation pending before the court. Court staff are authorized only to provide information that is available online, through the public website, or through PACER.

Randall Lohan Clerk of Court

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE:

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PROCEDURES REGARDING THE : STANDING ORDER

POSSESSION AND USE OF CAMERAS

AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC

DEVICES BY VISITORS TO THE :
J. CALEB BOGGS FEDERAL BUILDING :
AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE :

At Wilmington on this Seventeenth day of May in 2024, it is HEREBY ORDERED that effective today the United States Marshal shall implement the following procedures to regulate the possession and use of cameras and personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones, smart phones, laptop computers, recording devices, smart watches, and tablet computers, by all visitors to the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building and United States Courthouse. These procedures are intended to ensure the personal security and privacy of parties, witnesses, iudges, iurors, and counsel involved in court proceedings.

- 1. All cameras and personal electronic devices shall be subject to inspection upon entry to the J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building and United States Courthouse. Such devices may not be used in violation of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 53 (prohibiting courtroom photography and broadcasting in criminal cases) and Local Civil Rule 83.2 (prohibiting photographs and broadcasting). The Court may authorize exceptions for investitures, ceremonial or naturalization proceedings, law school moot court proceedings, and activities sponsored by a bar association for continuing legal education.
- 2. Subject to the exemptions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Standing Order, all cameras, cellular telephones, smart phones, smart watches, and similarly sized personal electronic devices shall be turned off in the presence of Court Security Officers upon entry to the courthouse and placed in a locked pouch provided by the U.S. Marshal. Devices shall remain in the locked pouch in the possession of the owner while in the courthouse.
- 3. The locked pouch may not be intentionally opened, damaged, or tampered with while in the visitor's possession, and it must be returned to the Court Security Officer before leaving the courthouse, at which time the personal electronic device will be

returned to the visitor. Intentional damage to, or theft of, the locked pouch will subject the visitor to possible criminal penalties.

- 4. Unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Judge or the presiding judge in a specific case, only the following persons shall be exempt from placing their personal electronic devices in a locked pouch:
- a. All attorneys with either a valid bar identification card or credentials of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Office of the Federal Public Defender;
- b. Summoned and seated petit or grand jurors, subject to any restrictions imposed by the presiding judge;
- c. Employees of the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the U.S. Trustee with valid identification or documentation;
- d. Judicial officers, employees of the U.S. District Court or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and other federal court employees on official business with valid court-issued identification;
- e. Volunteer law clerks and/or interns for the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and U.S. Bankruptcy Court with valid court-issued identification or documentation;
- f. Law enforcement officials on official business with valid identification or badge;
- g. Employees of delivery services, courier services, and law firm couriers who frequent the courthouse, on official business with valid identification or documentation;
- h. GSA employees and Contractors cleared by GSA or escorted by Court staff; and
- i. Members of the press who cover the District of Delaware—in its entirety—on a regular basis and who have obtained from the Clerk of the Court In-House Press Credentials. Press coverage of a single case alone does not qualify as regular coverage of the Court.
- 5. Any person listed as exempt in Paragraph 4 shall comply with the bans on photography, broadcasting, and recording in Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 53 and Local Civil Rule 83.2 and shall not allow their cameras or personal electronic devices to be used by that person or others in violation of any law, rule, or

judicial order. A member of the press who obtains from the Clerk of the Court In-House Press Credentials shall comply with the certification signed in connection with the issuance of those credentials.

6. Any person in violation of these rules will have their device confiscated and risks being removed from the courtroom or courthouse at the discretion of the Judge or U.S. Marshals Service Court Security Officers.

Colm F. Connolly

Chief Judge