

News Release



Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network

400 North Capitol Street N.W., Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 737-3220

Contacts: Rayne Pollack
202-626-4863
Kristin Wennberg
202-626-7975

C-SPAN HAILS FEDERAL COURT EXPERIMENT WITH TV COVERAGE

Washington, D.C., September 12 -- C-SPAN applauds this afternoon's U.S. Judicial Conference decision to allow testing of television coverage in the federal courts with the following statement:

"C-SPAN hails this decision and repeats its pledge to work closely with both the courts and its colleagues in the electronic media during the three-year experiment to assure that television coverage gets a fair hearing before the federal judges.

C-SPAN has a decade of experience in covering public affairs events "from gavel-to-gavel" without disrupting those proceedings-- a particular concern of many judges and lawyers. We are already preparing to share that experience as the Judicial Conference establishes the ground rules of the experiment.

We are confident that at the end of the three-year experiment, if not before, the federal judiciary will find, as many state courts have, that television has vast power to instruct the public and to enhance public respect for our system of justice."

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HOLD UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHETHER THE
CONFERENCE PASSED THE RECOMMENDATION
AS IT WAS SUBMITTED

September 12, 1990

C-SPAN HAILS FEDERAL COURT EXPERIMENT WITH TV COVERAGE

Today the federal courts agreed to test the idea of opening their proceedings to the public through television.

C-SPAN hails this decision and repeats its pledge to work closely with both the courts and its colleagues in the electronic media during the three-year experiment to assure that television coverage gets a fair hearing before the federal judges.

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COURTV

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C-SPAN'S COVERAGE OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

1985

- C-SPAN launches its "America and the Courts" series focusing on the cases and legal issues facing the federal judiciary.
- C-SPAN begins coverage of all public speeches made by the Supreme Court justices.

1986

- C-SPAN cameras are the first to go inside the Supreme Court Building's press room to conduct a live television program. A series of live Viewer Call-in shows continues until the Supreme Court decides to not allow the call-in format inside the building.
- C-SPAN airs unedited, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on the nomination of Antonin Scalia to the U.S. Supreme Court. Since then, C-SPAN has covered every Supreme Court justice confirmation hearing in its entirety.

1987

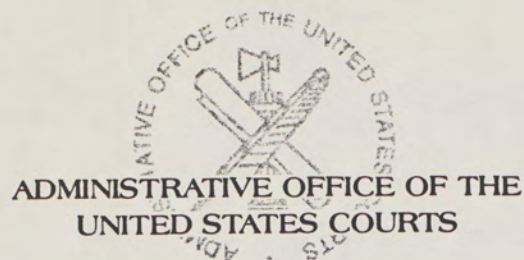
- C-SPAN begins its "Supreme Court Review" program featuring lawyers and journalists discussing the oral arguments heard in the high court the previous week.

1988

- C-SPAN's cameras return to the Supreme Court for the first live TV glimpse of the courtroom itself.
- C-SPAN takes part in an experiment with television cameras in the Supreme Court chamber. Three justices (William Rehnquist, Anthony Kennedy, Byron White) observe the proceedings, designed to demonstrate how unobtrusive 2-camera coverage of the court would be.

1989

- C-SPAN is the first to air live coverage of an oral argument from the U.S. Court of Military Appeals -- the only federal court until now open to cameras.



NEWS RELEASE

September 12, 1990

Contact: David Sellers
202-633-6040

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE APPROVES LIMITED CAMERAS IN COURTROOM EXPERIMENT

The Judicial Conference of the United States today voted to authorize a three year controlled experiment that will allow media cameras in the courtrooms of selected appellate and district courts for the coverage of civil proceedings only.

In approving the recommendations of its Ad Hoc Committee on Cameras in the Courtroom, the Conference voted to allow an experiment to start on July 1, 1991 in up to two courts of appeals and up to six district courts, permitting photographing, recording and broadcasting of certain proceedings. The experiment, which will be entirely elective, would **permit--not require--**camera coverage without government expense of civil proceedings only. Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Criminal

Procedure specifically prohibits the broadcasting of criminal proceedings. The experiment will conclude June 30, 1994.

The Conference also approved guidelines for the pilot courts, providing the presiding judicial officer with discretion to refuse, limit or terminate media coverage of a case when it is "in the interests of justice to protect the rights of the parties, witnesses, and the dignity of the court; to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings; or for any other reason considered necessary or appropriate by the presiding judicial officer."

The special ad hoc committee, chaired by Judge Robert F. Peckham (N.D. Calif.), must still select the volunteer courts that will participate, and will then be discharged from further service. The Conference's new Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, chaired by Judge Robert M. Parker (E.D. Tex.), has been assigned oversight of the experiment. The Federal Judicial Center will monitor the project and file a report and recommendations with the Conference in September 1993 or March 1994.

In other action, the Conference approved:

* A legislative proposal that would authorize federal judicial officers to carry firearms. Threats against judges have risen significantly in recent years, and increasingly judicial officers are called upon to perform their work in high risk situations.

While it is anticipated that few judges actually would carry weapons, such legislation would preempt state laws that judges who elected to carry firearms might violate by crossing municipal or state boundaries, as many are required to do in conducting their regular business.

* An initiative to support better coordination with local authorities to limit federal prosecutions to charges that cannot or should not be prosecuted in state courts. This endorses a recommendation of the Federal Courts Study Committee, and pertains specifically to narcotics cases, which are increasingly being prosecuted in federal instead of state courts.

* Significant amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure. The amendments will be forwarded to the Supreme Court with a recommendation that they be approved and sent to Congress by May 1, 1991.

The changes in the Rules of Civil Procedure include important amendments dealing with service of process, subpoenas and alternate jurors. If Congress does not act, the amendments will take effect December 1, 1991.

The bankruptcy rules have been almost entirely rewritten, a step that was made necessary by the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986. If Congress does not act on these amendments within 90 days of their being reported, they will become effective.

The Judicial Conference is chaired by the Chief Justice of the United States and composed of the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the chief judges of the other 12 federal appeals courts, a district judge from each of the 12 geographical circuits, and the chief judge of the Court of International Trade.

The Conference meets twice a year to consider administrative and policy issues affecting the federal court system, and to make recommendations to Congress concerning legislation involving the Judicial Branch.

A list of the members of the Conference is attached.

###

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 1990

William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice	Presiding
Chief Judge Stephen G. Breyer	First Circuit
Chief Judge Frank H. Freedman	Massachusetts
Chief Judge James L. Oakes	Second Circuit
Chief Judge Charles L. Brieant	New York (Southern)
Chief Judge A. Leon Higginbotham	Third Circuit
Chief Judge John F. Gerry	New Jersey
Chief Judge Sam J. Ervin, III	Fourth Circuit
Judge Frank A. Kaufman	Maryland
Chief Judge Charles Clark	Fifth Circuit
Chief Judge Barefoot Sanders	Texas (Northern)
Chief Judge Gilbert S. Merritt	Sixth Circuit
Chief Judge Eugene E. Siler, Jr.	Kentucky (Eastern)
Chief Judge William J. Bauer	Seventh Circuit
Judge Sarah Evans Barker	Indiana (Southern)
Chief Judge Donald P. Lay	Eighth Circuit
Judge John F. Nangle	Missouri (Eastern)
Chief Judge Alfred T. Goodwin	Ninth Circuit
Chief Judge William D. Browning	Arizona
Chief Judge William J. Holloway	Tenth Circuit
Chief Judge Earl E. O'Connor	Kansas
Chief Judge Gerald B. Tjoflat	Eleventh Circuit
Judge Anthony A. Alaimo	Georgia (Southern)
Chief Judge Patricia M. Wald	District of Columbia Circuit
Chief Judge Aubrey Robinson	District of Columbia
Chief Judge Helen W. Nies	Federal Circuit
Chief Judge Edward D. Re	International Trade

Conference Secretary: _____

L. Ralph Mecham Director
Administrative Office of U. S. Courts

NEWS



KASTENMEIER

Congressman Robert W. Kastenmeier
2328 RAYBURN HOB • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 • 202-225-2906

Contact: Mary Dixon
202/225-2906

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
091290--64

HOUSE JUDICIARY COURTS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR HAILS CAMERAS IN COURTROOM DECISION

WASHINGTON -- Congressman Bob Kastenmeier (D-WI), chair of the subcommittee that deals with court issues and the first chair of a congressional subcommittee to open legislative proceedings to the press and public, made the following statement on the announcement that the Judicial Conference will proceed with a three-year demonstration project to allow TV news cameras into Federal courtrooms:

"The time for Federal courts to permit TV news coverage in courtrooms has come. The Judicial Conference's decision, approving the recommendation of the five-judge panel appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist to conduct a pilot or demonstration program of coverage in civil court proceedings, is good news.

"The Congress has found that permitting C-Span to televise floor proceedings and hearings has been beneficial to the public interest. We have cameras in the courtrooms of 45 states. My own state of Wisconsin was one of the first states to open courtrooms to cameras and after ten years of experience, our courts are very much at home with the practice.

"Technology that permits us access to world events also compels us to use that access to make our own government available to our citizens.

"The plain fact is that Americans get much of their information about government from the electronic media. I believe that viewing court proceedings as they unfold, as close to first hand as one can be without being in the room, will add to public understanding of the way in which our system of justice works. When we build understanding, we also build trust."

#

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Bob Cohn - Newsweek

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Court

DATE: 9.12.90

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3
(Including Cover)

If you do not receive all pages, please call Kristin Wennberg at 202-626-7975.

NOTE:

483.6512
Disconnected

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Henry Reske - UPI

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release -TV in Court

DATE: 9.12.90

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NOTE:

789. 2362

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Catherine Stratton - Millimeter

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 9.12.90

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NOTE:

212.228.5859

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Vincente Pasdeloup - Cable World

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 9.12.90

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NOTE:

331.3734

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Alan Goldsand - multichannel News

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Court

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Simon Applebaum - CableVision

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Court

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NOTE:

212.887.8585

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Sandy Torry - Washington Post

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

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NOTE:

334.5661

1-2-80

1-2-80

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Bob minzesch eimer - USA Today

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

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276.5527

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Jeannine Aversa - Multichannel News

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release -TV in Court

DATE: 9.12.90

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NOTE:

Jeannine:

This is a follow-up to your September
3rd story.

Kristin

371.9618

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Ruth Marcus - Washington Post

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

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TO: Ted Gest - US News and World Report

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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NOTE:

955.2713

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TO: Harry Jessell - Broadcasting

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Court

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NOTE:

429.0651

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TO: Laura Malt - Electronic Media

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Courts

DATE: 9.12.90

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NOTE:

Laura:
This is a follow-up to the materials I sent you
two weeks ago.

- Kristin

638.3155

✓
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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Nina Totenberg - National Public Radio

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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822-2329

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TO: Debra Levy - Legal Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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457.0718

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TO: Linda Greenhouse - NY Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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NOTE:

862.0340

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FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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898.8383

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TO: Steve McGonigle - Dallas Morning News

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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NOTE:

642.7590

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Charles Roberts - LA Daily Journal

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - TV in Court

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NOTE:

662.7278

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TO: David Savage - LA Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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887.1050

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833.8348

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TO: Michael Briggs - Chicago Sun Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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393.3641

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TO: Paul Barrett - Wall Street Journal

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

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8629246

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TO: Dick Carelli - Associated Press

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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NOTE:

Dick -
I know you already got a copy of this
from Bruce Collins, but I thought I'd send
you the official version anyway.
Kristin

1. The first of the two main
 parts of the book is a
 general introduction to the
 subject.

2. The second part of the book
 is a detailed study of the
 various aspects of the
 subject.

3. The third part of the book
 is a collection of
 examples and exercises
 designed to illustrate the
 principles discussed in the
 previous parts.

4. The fourth part of the book
 is a collection of
 problems and exercises
 designed to test the
 reader's understanding of the
 subject.

5. The fifth part of the book
 is a collection of
 problems and exercises
 designed to test the
 reader's understanding of the
 subject.

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Dawn Weyrich - Washington Times

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NOTE:

269.3419

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Fx: (202) 828-6422

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Chicago Tribune
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Fx: (202) 833-8348

Debra Levy
Legal Times
Ph: (202) 457-0686
Fx: (202) 457-0718

David Savage
Los Angeles Times
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Fx: (202) 887-1050

Linda Greenhouse
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UPI
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Fx: nonpublished
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Washington Post
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USA Today
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Dallas Morning News
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Denise Martin
American Lawyer
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Fx: */*

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