

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

C6-78-47193

ORDER Permitting Audio and Video Coverage
of Supreme Court Proceedings.

On January 27, 1978, upon petition of the Minnesota State Bar Association Joint Bar, Press, Radio and Television Committee, this court made its order waiving and suspending, at the discretion of the Court, for experimental purposes, Canon 3, Paragraph A.(7), Code of Judicial Conduct. After more than five years of experimentation during which time no problems other than minor mechanical problems have developed, the Court has determined that the experimental modification of Canon 3, Paragraph A.(7) should be made permanent and

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That proceedings in the Supreme Court held in its courtroom are excepted from the provisions of Canon 3, Paragraph A.(7), Code of Judicial Conduct.

2. That Canon 3, Paragraph A.(7), Code of Judicial Conduct be, and hereby is, amended to read:

Except in the Supreme Court, a judge should prohibit broadcasting, televising, recording, or taking photographs in the courtroom and areas immediately adjacent thereto during sessions of court or recesses between sessions. A judge may, however, authorize:

(a) the use of electronic or photographic means for the presentation of evidence, for the perpetuation of a record, or for other purposes of judicial administration;

(b) the broadcasting, televising, recording, or photographing of investitive, ceremonial, or naturalization proceedings;

(c) the photographic or electronic recording and reproduction of appropriate court proceedings under the following conditions:

(i) the means of recording will not distract participants or impair the dignity of the proceedings;

(ii) the parties have consented, and the consent to be depicted or recorded has been obtained from each witness appearing in the recording and reproduction;

(iii) the reproduction will not be exhibited until after the proceeding has been concluded and all direct appeals have been exhausted; and

(iv) the reproduction will be exhibited only for instructional purposes in educational institutions.

3. That audio or video coverage in the Supreme Court be subject to the following rules:

(a) Unless notice is waived by the Chief Justice, notice of intent to cover court proceedings by either audio or video means shall be given by the media to the Clerk of the Supreme Court at least 24 hours prior to the time of the intended coverage.

(b) Cameramen, technicians and photographers covering a proceeding shall avoid activity which might distract participants or impair the dignity of the proceedings; shall remain seated within the restricted areas designated by the Court, shall observe the customs of the Court; shall conduct themselves in keeping with courtroom decorum; and shall not dress in a manner which sets them apart unduly from the participants in the proceeding.

(c) All broadcast and photographic coverage shall be on a pool basis, the arrangements for which must be made by the pooling


parties in advance of the hearing. Not more than one (1) ENG camera producing the single video pool-feed shall be permitted in the courtroom. Not more than two (2) still-photographic cameras shall be permitted in the courtroom at any one time. Motor-driven still cameras shall not be used.

(d) Exact locations for all camera and audio equipment within the courtroom shall be determined by the Court. All equipment shall be in place and tested 15 minutes in advance of the time the Court is called to order and shall be unobtrusive. All wiring, until made permanent, shall be safely and securely taped to the floor along the walls.

(e) Only existing courtroom lighting shall be used.

Dated: April 20, 1983

BY THE COURT


Douglas K. Amdahl
Chief Justice