

Media Panel, Room G03, Minnesota Judicial Center

For taking video and audio feeds from Supreme Court and Court of Appeals proceedings

The court has an audio/video system that can distribute a pool video and audio signal from any of the three courtrooms to the press.

Media Panel A/V distribution system- ground floor, Room G03, locked in cabinet

Supreme Court Courtroom 300- third floor

Court of Appeals Courtroom 200- second floor

Court of Appeals Courtroom 100- first floor

This is what the panel looks like when it is open:



You can record what is going on in the courtrooms from a pool camera, a pool audio recorder, the sound-activated cameras (300 only), or the security camera.

Video Sources:

Pool Camera- This is a camera provided by one of the local media outlets. Below you'll see the description of where this is set up in the courtroom and how it is connected. It's manually operated by the media outlet that is providing the camera. This is the only broadcast-quality feed available, but if there's no camera to put in the court there are two other options.

Sound-Activated Cameras -

There are three cameras around the courtroom with fixed shots that automatically switch based upon who is talking.

Security camera - One shot, and the picture is very grainy, but it's available if needed.

Audio Source:

The courts' microphones provide the audio to the panel.

The audio comes out at mic level and at live level. More on that below.

Monitor:

At the top of the media rack is a monitor. Below it is a row of buttons that determines what you see in the monitor. The monitor DOES NOT determine what's coming out of the connections in the rack below. It's just a way of seeing what's happening.

Audio amplifier:

Below the monitor is the audio amplifier. Just like the monitor, it does not impact what comes out the audio connections below. It only controls the volume to the speakers amplifying the audio. Turn it on by setting the switch to the up or "1" position). Adjust the volume knobs so you can hear the feed over the chatter of the press in the room.

Close up view of the Courtroom 300 panel



Getting the Feed:

(300 used as an example, 100 and 200 are very similar)

Below the monitor and audio amplifier is the Courtroom 300 panel. This is where you'll plug in your equipment to get the video and audio feed.

Each of the video sources listed above has several BNC outputs in this panel.

The four BNC outputs on the left are for the pool camera and are appropriately labeled "pool camera". On the right side of the panel are six BNC connectors. The first four labeled "auto cameras" are for the sound-activated cameras. The last two just labeled "camera" are for the security cam.

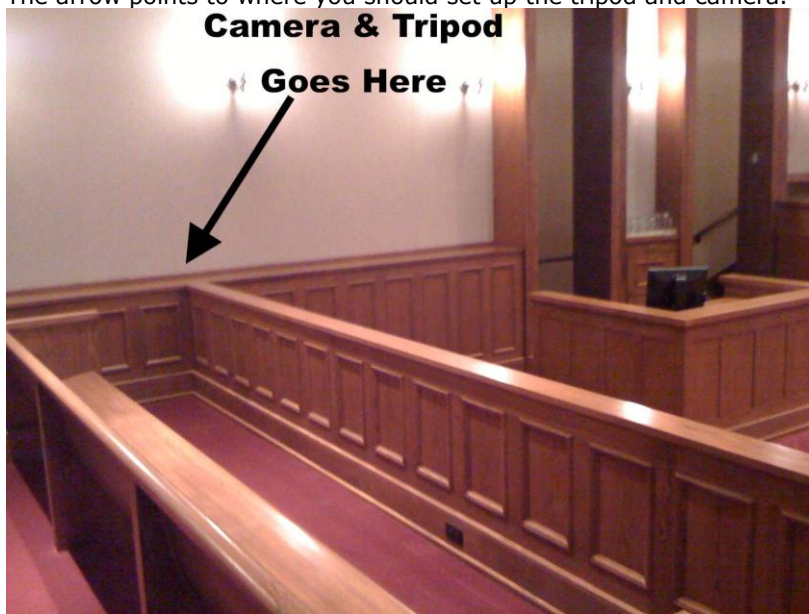
In the middle are eight male XLR audio outputs. Four of them are mic level (which is probably what you want) and four are line level (which will sound distorted if you don't have the proper equipment).

If there are more than four media outlets wanting to record the proceedings, someone will need to bring a "mult box" so one of the BNC and one of the XLR connections can be split and shared.

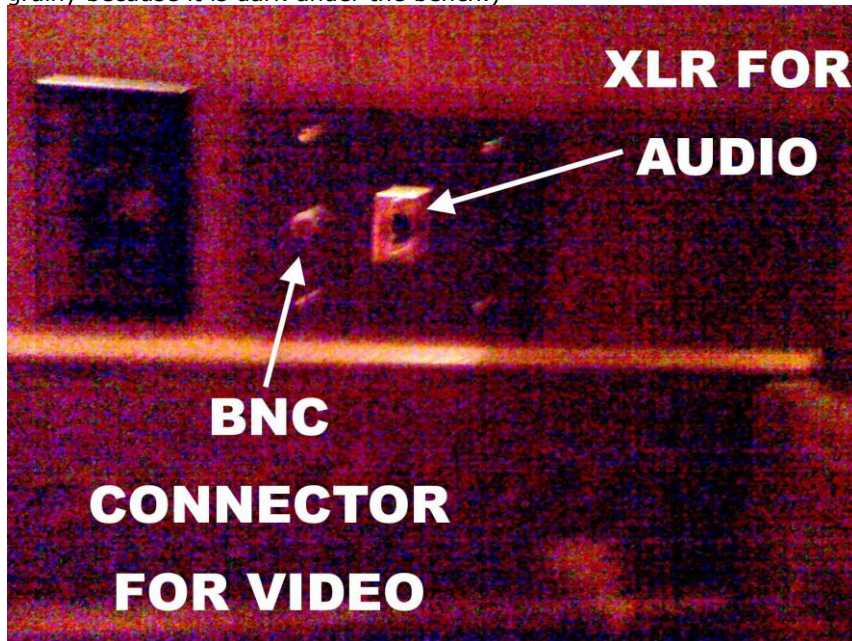
The position for the pool camera is to the left.



The arrow points to where you should set up the tripod and camera.



After entering the courtroom, turn left in front on the last bench. Get down on your knees and look under the bench. The audio and video connections are on a plate near where the side wall meets the back wall. You feed your video into the BNC connector. Audio from the court's microphone system comes out of the wall through an XLR connection. You'll want to feed this to the audio input on your camera. (The picture is grainy because it is dark under the bench.)



Here is the view from the tripod position.

