

USA v. BOWERS: MEDIA INFORMATION

April 23, 2023

The following is a guide to media polices and accommodations for USA vs. Bowers trial. All information is subject to change, and any updated versions of this document will be posted on the Western District of Pennsylvania’s website: www.pawd.uscourts.gov under the Cases of Interest Page.

I. What resources should media be familiar with?

- a. **Decorum Order.** This order provides guidelines to the media, including access to the Courthouse, the main and overflow Courtrooms, and the use of electronics inside the Courthouse.
- b. United States District Court for Western District of Pennsylvania website: www.pawd.uscourts.gov
 - a. “For Media & Public” Tab
 - i. **Media Page.** This page contains general information for the media. <https://www.pawd.uscourts.gov/media-0>
 - ii. **Cases of Interest Page.** This page will provide information and updates regarding the USA v. Bowers case. The most recent version of this document, and docket entries for several (but not all) pleadings and orders that have not been filed under seal. <https://www.pawd.uscourts.gov/cases-interest>
- c. **PACER.** Most case docket entries will be available via PACER, the Federal Judiciary’s document access service. To register for an account, please visit www.pacer.gov
- d. **Media email.** Media related questions for the Court should be sent to: PAWD_Media@pawd.uscourts.gov **Please note: Court staff cannot comment on litigation pending before the court. Court staff are authorized only to provide information relating to the documents filed in the case and the court schedule, that is, only information that is available online, through our public website, or through PACER.**

II. How will Media registration work?

- a. **Media Registration Page.** For this case, media are required to obtain court-issued badges to receive special media access privileges, such as access to the media room, and the use of electronics (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) in this room. The registration application can be found under for “For Public and Media” tab, under the

title “Media Registration.” <https://www.pawd.uscourts.gov/content/media-registration>
Registration will be open, and badges will be issued throughout the duration of the trial.

- b. **Register Early.** Although we will do our best to promptly process applications for court-issued media credentials, the media badges will not be ready immediately following application submission. It is recommended media register for court-issued badges at least 24-hours in advance of appearing at the Courthouse.
- c. **Badge pickup.** After the registration process is complete, an email alert will confirm when badges will be ready for pick up. Any members of the media that wish to access the Media Room must have and display the Court-issued Media ID Badge.

III. **What rules are mandatory?**

- a. **Electronic Recording is prohibited.** Electronic recording/photography of any means is not permitted anywhere in the Courthouse. This includes audio and/or video recordings by cell phone or smart watch. Electronic interviews/broadcasts are also not permitted anywhere in the Courthouse.
- b. **Decorum Order.** The Decorum Order and other Court Directives must be followed at all times.
- c. **United States Marshals, Court Security Officers and other safety personnel.** These persons are designated with the protection of the safety and security of all Courthouse occupants. Their directives must be always followed and adhered to.
- d. **Entry Paths to/inside Courthouse.** Designated Court Entry paths or any Court property may not be blocked or obstructed at any time.

IV. **How will the Media Access the Courthouse and what are the rules?**

- a. **Courthouse hours.** The Courthouse will be open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 6:00 p.m.
- b. **Media Overflow Room hours.** Unless otherwise ordered, the Media Overflow Room will open at 7:30 a.m. and will close within thirty (30) minutes of trial ending for the day, and no later than 6:00 p.m.
- c. **Electronic Devices.** Credentialed Media with Court-issued Media badges may bring laptops, tablets and cellphones through security lines and into the Media Overflow Room. Once inside the Courthouse, these devices may only be used in the Media Overflow Room and are subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Recording Functions (audio, video, photo) may not be used at any time.
 - ii. Credentialed Media may use phones to talk with editors, etc. All phone conversations should be conducted in the hallway.
 - iii. Text/keyboard functions are permitted. Members of the Media may take notes, send texts/tweets and transmit articles for publication, including blog entries.

- iv. Wi-fi has been provided in the Media Overflow Room. Due to the anticipated high volume of Wi-fi traffic, the Court cannot guarantee reliability and highly recommends that media personnel be prepared with a back-up hot spot or another form of internet connectivity.

V. **What are the Rules for Media Overflow Room?**

- a. **Credentialed Media Only.** Only approved members of the media who have registered with the United States District Court of Western Pennsylvania and have been provided a Media badge are allowed in the Media Overflow Room. Media that for whatever reason have not received court-issued credentials should proceed to the Public Overflow Courtroom, 6A. No electronic devices are permitted in Courtroom 6A.
- b. **Recording is prohibited.** It is illegal to record Federal proceedings or any closed-circuit TV or audio transmissions. Members of the Media who are in the Media Overflow Room should step into the hallway to conduct phone calls and must ensure that their calls are not being recorded.
- c. **Adhere to Decorum Order.** All members of the Media are expected to comply with the conditions set forth in the Court issued Decorum Order.
- d. **Revocation of credentials.** Media Credentials may be revoked for violations of any media room or Courthouse rules.

VI. **Can Media sit in the Public Overflow Courtroom?**

- a. Yes, however, if a member of the Media chooses to sit in the Public Overflow Courtroom, electronic equipment/devices will not be permitted.

VII. **How will the Media Receive Updated Information?**

- a. Media alerts will be sent via email to credentialed Media to advise of schedule changes or important notifications. Additional media alerts will be sent as warranted.

VIII. **Can media bring Food/Beverages to the Courthouse?**

- a. Members of the Media with Court-issued Media Badges may bring food through security lines and **into the Media Overflow Room only**, subject to these conditions:
 - i. **Only** store-bought pre-packaged items in a transparent sealed/wrapped container will be permitted to be brought into the Courthouse.
 - ii. Liquids must be in a pre-packaged sealed unopened transparent container (i.e. a case of water and other non-alcoholic beverages will be permitted as

long as they are unopened and remain shrink wrapped in original packaging through security).

- iii. Food/beverages may only be consumed inside the Media Overflow Room.
- iv. Members of the Media who consume food/beverages in the Media Overflow Room must place waste items into the proper trash receptacles.
- v. Vending machines are available on the third floor for additional snack/beverage options.
- vi. These food provisions are being provided as an exception to standard Court policy. If proper guidelines are not followed, they may be revoked.

IX. How can the media obtain transcripts?

- a. 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.
- b. Call the court reporter to request an estimate for the price of the transcript you are requesting. Transcript preparation and delivery times will begin when payment has been satisfied with the court reporter.
- c. For each proceeding held before a judge, minute entries are filed on the Court's electronic docketing system, CM/ECF. The docket is also accessible via PACER. Review the minute entry to determine the correct date of the proceeding. The minute entry for that date will reflect the court reporter's name. After determining the name, please contact the Court Reporters' Office at 412-208-7385 or 412-208-7572 to request a transcript.
- d. Transcripts of proceedings conducted under seal may only be released by order of the court.