UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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COURT POLICY REGARDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COURTHOUSES
(Revised February 14, 2007)

Effective February 14, 2007, the following policy will govern the possession and use of electronic devices in the United States District Courthouses for the District of South Carolina.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items may not be brought into the courthouse: cell phones, wireless email devices such as the BlackBerry or Treo, tape recorders, cameras, or personal digital assistants such as the Palm Pilot. If such items are brought to the courthouse, they must be left with security upon entering the courthouse. The Court and the Marshal's Office assume no responsibility for items left with security.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

Laptop computers are allowed in the courthouse under the following terms and conditions:

Attorneys, paralegals, witnesses and other support staff: These individuals will be permitted to bring laptops into the courtroom provided they secure the approval of the judge presiding over the case. Such approval may be given by telephone. Judges and members of the judge's chambers and courtroom staff are authorized to give this permission. Permission by one judge does not constitute permission by any other judge to use the laptop in his or her courtroom.

Other Persons: Each individual judge retains the discretion to permit other persons (e.g. members of the public and representatives of the news media) to bring laptops into the courtroom on a case-by-case basis.

Any person bringing a laptop into a United States District Courthouse shall use the laptop only for purposes of evidence presentation, research, emailing and note

taking. Under no circumstances may these devices be used to conduct audio or video recording of courtroom proceedings, or to download or transfer: (a) large files not necessary for court proceedings or (b) inappropriate or offensive materials. Violation of this policy will subject the offender to confiscation of the laptop and possible contempt sanctions.

You are personally responsible for any misuse of information prepared on or forwarded from your computer, even if you are not directly involved in the improper usage. You must, therefore, insure that any information you prepare or forward is not misused by others, including by forwarding the information on to third parties whose access to the information should be restricted. Particular risks of misuse are presented when you forward a summary of witness testimony or a realtime transcript in a case in which witnesses have been sequestered or if you forward a document containing confidential information discussed in a proceeding.

For the Court

Joseph F. Anderson, Jr.
Chief United States District Judge

February 14, 2007
Columbia, South Carolina