

To: Dave Arland and Board Members of Indiana Broadcasters Association

From: Dan Byron

Date: Monday, October 25, 2021

Subject: New Cameras in the Courtroom Pilot Project Starting December 1, 2021

I am pleased to announce that the Indiana Supreme Court has stated that they will perform another Cameras in the Courtroom Pilot Project for 4 months and will start on December 1 per my request which will involve five specific counties and judges and their courtrooms and which gives us enough time to set up possible Pool Coordinators from radio or television stations in or around the five counties. The five counties and the five judges are:

Allen County, Allen Superior Court #5, Judge Frances Gull;

Delaware County, Delaware Circuit Court #1, Judge Marianne Vorhees;

Lake County, Lake Superior Court, Civil #7, Judge Bruce Parent;

Tippecanoe County, Tippecanoe Circuit Court, Judge Sean Persin; and

Vanderburgh County, Vanderburgh Superior Court, Judge Leslie Shively.

In that connection, I have already lined up attorneys from our office including myself to meet with the judges and work out the details. Any hearing or trial will be evaluated by the judge and by the participants. For your information, the evaluation form for this is attached.

The terms and the order of the Supreme Court on this project will come out around early November. Attached also are the latest proposed terms for the project. These terms may change further. If your station desires to run a portion or all of a trial or a hearing, you must complete the attached request form and do so 48 hours in advance for the Judge to decide if he or she approves. For the current calendars of the 5 judges go to the website: <https://public.courts.in.gov/CourtCal#/Home> and put in the specific Judge and Court and the specific dates starting with December 1, 2021. I have had a Zoom Meeting and will continue to have such meetings with the Supreme Court staff attorneys and Steve Key of the HSPA to refine this further and will continue to report back.

I am informed that where possible, the trial judges may want to use their own camera set-up which is in place now. Since July of this year, the Judges throughout all counties in Indiana are live-streaming various hearings and trials but are not allowing any recording or broadcasting of same. You can see this for yourself by going to www.public.court.in.gov/incs#. Then go through the prompts and you will see what courts today in Indiana are live-streaming and you can watch. Also, any radio or television station in Indiana today can comment on what you are seeing or give a snippet of news regarding same. A press release was given on this on June 29 of this year. Again, you cannot record or broadcast anything found on this site.

That said, we were told on October 14 that if the sample size is too small to fully evaluate, they may expand the ending date of the project and/or they may open this up to other or all county judges. Also, the judges involved may still want to have a Pool Coordinator like we had in 2006 (the last time we did a pilot project for the Indiana Supreme Court) to assist the judge which would likely involve a radio or television station in or around the five counties (Allen, Delaware, Lake, Tippecanoe, and Vanderburgh). We are going to propose to the trial judge that we have an attorney from our office assist the judge in collecting the completed evaluation forms before anyone leaves the courtroom. In 2006 this initially was a problem because participants would leave before completing the report, then never get to it. The judges then welcomed our attorney help.

As mentioned above, the actual order on this project with the final terms will come out in early November. The Association will send this out as soon as it is received.