

Procedures for Oral Argument

There will be 28 seats reserved for the press in the courtroom. Each news organization wishing to attend oral argument shall submit its name to Mr. Craig Waters, the Court's Director of Public Information, by 5:00 pm, Tuesday, December 5, 2000, for inclusion in a lottery that will determine who receives these seats. There will only be one seat per news organization. For purposes of this order, a "news organization" is the largest business entity that owns, controls, or is formally affiliated with one or more press outlets. For example, the entire NBC network will only be entitled to one seat if it is selected in the lottery. Similarly, the New York Times Newspapers also will only be entitled to one seat if it is selected in the lottery. Further details of the lottery will be available from the Mr. Waters.

All other seats in the courtroom not reserved for attorneys and parties will be available to the public on a first-come-first-served basis beginning one hour before arguments begin.

Once space in the courtroom is full, no other persons will be permitted into the Supreme Court Building. However, the proceedings will be broadcast live over Tallahassee cable channel 47 and will be available on any other cable system or network broadcast that wishes to make them available to the public from the satellite downlink.

Apart from Court personnel, three still photographers will be permitted to photograph the court session. One will be chosen by the Associated Press and the other two will be designated by the photographers covering this event. Photographers shall contact Mr. Craig Waters for further details. As a condition of being selected, pool photographers must agree to provide all other media outlets with copies of photographs as expeditiously as possible. In addition, they must provide the Court with copies of all photographs distributed to any media outlet for inclusion in the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society's collection. Copies should be forwarded to Mr. Waters within a reasonable time.

Once argument is completed, the public and the press will remain seated as directed by the Marshal. Attorneys and parties will exit the courtroom first through doors at the front of the courtroom as designated by the Marshal and leave the building. Once this has been completed, everyone else will leave the building through doors at the rear of the courtroom in a prompt and orderly manner. Media interviews of lawyers and others involved in this matter shall be conducted outside the building and will be coordinated by Pat Roberts, of the Florida Association of Broadcasters. The media in coordination with Mr. Roberts should set up an outdoor area suitable for all the media to conduct interviews. This area must be off the Supreme Court property, such as on the capitol plaza overlooking the Florida Supreme Court Building or in the Senate Office Building.

Video cameras will not be permitted inside the courtroom. The Court has four cameras permanently fixed in the courtroom, and these will film and broadcast the proceedings live via the Internet and via satellite. The Internet broadcast site is:

<http://www.wfsu.org/gavel2gavel>

Wherever possible, broadcast media should downlink the live video feed from the satellite. Satellite coordinates will be available from Craig Waters and Pat Roberts. Pat Roberts, of the Florida Association of Broadcasters, is designated as the person to coordinate matters with broadcasters present here in Tallahassee, including satellite trucks, and to assist with the satellite uplink. He will arrange for multi boxes and other matters to enable broadcasters present in Tallahassee to access the live feed from the Courtroom. All satellite feeds from the live proceeding shall be transmitted without logos of any news organization or broadcaster. All other details regarding broadcasts will be coordinated by Mr. Waters and Mr. Roberts.

Any orders or opinions issued by the Court in this matter will be announced by Mr. Waters from the Supreme Court front steps and will also be released first on both of the Court's duplicate websites, which are:

www.flcourts.org

www.firn.edu/supct

Paper copies cannot be released as quickly due to the time necessary to duplicate them, but will be available as soon as possible after release.