



Ninth Circuit Media Relations

- Most people rely on the media for information about the courts
- Public understanding and confidence is nurtured through working with the media to ensure fair and accurate news coverage
- Media accuracy and fairness are enhanced by informing reporters about court policies and procedures, and by providing knowledgeable spokespersons
- Most district courts' websites have a media page noting who to contact with questions, typically the court clerk, and we are here to assist the clerk if desired.



Common Media Concerns

- Having access to court hearings
- Not understanding trial and appellate process
- Difficulty following court dockets

Court Coverage Tutorial: Everything a reporter needs to know to cover the Ninth Circuit

Welcome to the Media Information Pages for the United States Court of Appeals for the [Ninth Circuit](#). These pages are to assist those writing about the court of appeals to understand how to find needed information and provide a brief overview of some of the critical elements. District court media procedures may vary. Please review [District Resources](#) for links to district court media pages.

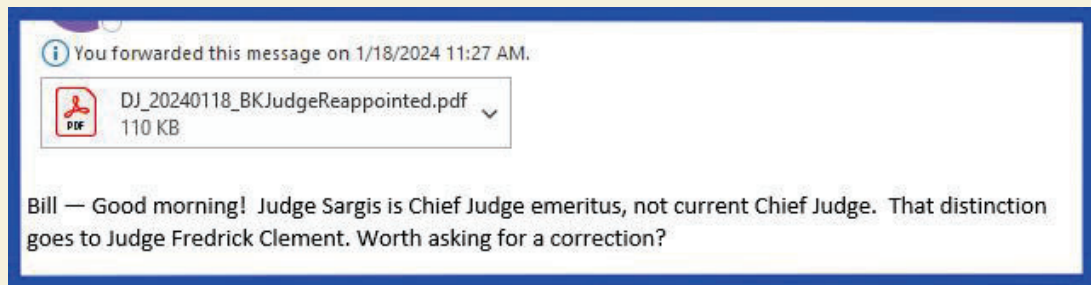
GENERAL
INFORMATION

DISTRICT
RESOURCES

USEFUL LINKS

Common Bench Concerns

- Speaking to reporters
- Errors in an article
- Journalists' use of "loaded" words





When Can You Talk to the Press?

- Inquiries about cases get an automatic “no comment” response.
- Judges can talk about their own background, general court processes and community involvement.
- Avoid exposing personal information on family members or travel plans

We see a variety of inquiries:

041725	Several emails with questions about the special sitting in Idaho	Dean Ferguson	Lewiston Tribune
042125	Requesting add to mailing list for media releases	"Evan Ellis	KQQ Pullman Radio
042225	Requesting photo of Judge Heather Williams to accompany press release	David Taub	Senior Reporter GVV
042325	Seeking info on 24-3601 McNeely vs City of Sparks	Mark Robison	Reno Gazette Journal
042825	Seeking info on Nevada District case 3:85-cv-00331-ART-CSD	Andrew Nomura	Reporter News 3 LV



Media Advice for New Judges

- Be wary. Reporters strive to different their article from other publications' versions
- Reporters can figure out email addresses but there is no need to respond. Please forward emails and contact us at any time.
- Check with your experienced colleagues on their policies for handling media inquiries
- Be fair and consistent in dealing with the media. These sites are good resources on the topic:

<https://inet.ao.dcn/resources/communication-resources/media-relations>

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/publications/judges_journal/2019/summer/judicial-ethics-impartiality-and-media/



Court Policies

- Check your court's relevant policies pertaining to use of cellphones, laptops, PDAs and other electronic devices.
- Almost all district court websites now have a page where media can easily find court policies.
- Ninth Circuit's News Media Page
<https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/news-media/court-coverage-tutorial-everything-a-reporter-needs-to-know-to-cover-the-ninth-circuit-to/>



Social Media

- Social Media in General
 - Useful channels to keep the public informed
- Dangers
 - Inappropriate comments by followers
- LinkedIn, X and YouTube in the Ninth Circuit

LinkedIn Followers

4/25/2024	13,447
8/23/2024	14,728
9/20/2024	14,930
12/6/2024	15,744
1/13/2025	16,394
1/23/2025	16,472
2/19/2025	16,560
3/30/2025	16,806
5/1/2025	16,929
5/21/2025	17,014



How the OCE's Public Information Group Can Help

- We can provide suggestions to clerks and judges on how to respond to questions or situations often with input from the COA Clerk's office, the OCE legal unit and the Circuit Executive.
- Offer insight into types of media and general practices
- Identify media outlets and reporters to ensure they are legitimate and not harmful
- Act as an intermediary and liaison to media
- Assist in preparing media releases, guidelines for media access, court decorum, obituaries, etc.
- Consult on social media plans and liaise with the AO to ensure compliance
- Bill Cracraft: bcracraft@ce9.uscourts.gov; Katherine Rodriguez: krodriguez@ce9.uscourts.gov

Questions

