

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURTHOUSE SECURITY POLICIES

The following courthouse security policies are hereby adopted:

Weapons

The United States Marshals Service is directed to:

- (a) adopt procedures excluding the carrying of weapons by any and all persons other than U.S. Marshals, Deputy U.S. Marshals and their designees, and Court Security Officers in all federal courthouses and off-site federal court facilities in the Eastern District of Texas, with the exception of off-site U.S. Probation facilities. *See* 18 U.S.C. §1930.
- (b) post an appropriate notice regarding the weapons and electronic communication device policies at the public entrances of the courthouses in the Eastern District of Texas.

Electronic Communication Devices

For purposes of this rule, electronic communication devices include, but are not limited to: cell phones, laptop computers, tablet computers (e.g., iPads), as well as other portable computing devices.

- (a) **Who May Possess:** Federal law enforcement officers, employees, and tenants of the courthouse may bring electronic communication devices into the courthouses.
- (b) **Who May Possess Subject to Screening and Clearance.** Possession of electronic communication devices in courthouses is prohibited, except by:
 - (1) lawyers who present photo identification and a current bar registration card from this or any other federal or state court;
 - (2) staff in the company of such lawyers who are vouched for by such lawyers; and
 - (3) individuals who are granted specific written permission from this court.
- (c) **Unauthorized Use.** No person shall use an electronic communication device to take photographs or make audio or video recordings in any public area in the courthouse or any other location in which court

business and proceedings are conducted, unless authorized by a judicial officer. Cell phones are to be turned off in the courtroom. Electronic communication devices must not be used in a manner that disrupts or interferes with judicial proceedings.

This order supersedes General Order 04-9.

Signed this 24th day of February, 2014.

FOR THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop for the letter "D".

LEONARD DAVIS
Chief Judge