VIDEO ACCESS TO EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE

The court order on media coverage provides that exhibits admitted into evidence will be available at the close of each day’s proceedings for photographing by the pool still photographers. A question has arisen over contemporaneous video access to exhibits admitted into evidence.

There is a strong possibility that certain trial exhibits will be received under seal. These exhibits have been described as autopsy photos and reports, and crime scene photos of the victims’ bodies. The nature of these exhibits presents a substantial probability of emotional harm to the victims’ families if published. Most news organizations would not publish the material, but others would have no qualms regarding publishing.

A review of the available technology has led to the conclusion that contemporaneous video access to exhibits will not provide adequate safeguards against inadvertent publication of sealed material. As a consequence of these technological limitations exhibits will made available as described in the court’s order without contemporaneous video access through the Court TV feed.