



DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Directions for Recording and broadcasting of judgment remarks

Purpose

1. This direction sets out arrangements and procedures for the recording and broadcasting of the Court's judgment remarks by news media organisations.
2. The purpose of the direction is to ensure fair and accurate reporting of the Court's judgment remarks, that their broadcasting and recording is in accordance with the *District Court Act 1973* and any relevant rules or regulations.

Definitions

3. As defined in Part 5 of the *District Court Act 1973*:

recording means capturing audio or visual content, or both, for the purposes of a broadcast.

broadcast means a live or delayed broadcast by means of radio, television or the internet (including webcasts).

judgment remarks of the Court means:

- (a) in relation to a criminal trial – the delivery of the verdict, and any remarks made by the Court when sentencing the accused person, that are delivered or made in open court, and
- (b) in relation to any other proceedings – any remarks made by the Court in open court when announcing the judgment determining the proceedings.

news media organisation means a commercial enterprise that engages in business of broadcasting or publishing news or a public broadcasting service that engages in the dissemination of news through a public news medium.

Application process

4. A news media organisation may apply to the Court to record and broadcast judgment remarks using the Court's application form which is to be submitted by email to the Court's Media Co-ordinator.
5. The Court will permit the recording and broadcasting of the judgment remarks unless the Court is satisfied that:
 - (a) an exclusionary ground referred to in section 179(3) of the *District Court Act 1973* is present, and
 - (b) except in the case of the exclusionary ground referred to in section 179(3)(d), it is not reasonably practicable to implement measures when recording or broadcasting the judgment remarks to prevent the broadcast of anything that gives rise to the exclusionary ground.
 - (c) the application is not submitted within sufficient time for the Court to:
 - i. consider the matters in (a) and (b) above
 - ii. provide for the Media Co-ordinator or other court appointed official to implement the procedures and conditions for recording and broadcasting in this direction.

Prohibited coverage

6. Having regard to the provisions of Part 5 of the *District Court Act 1973*, and in particular that the recording and broadcasting by any new media organisation is limited to the judgment remarks of the Court, the recording and broadcasting of the following is prohibited:
 - (a) jurors
 - (b) an accused person in a criminal trial or a member of the accused person's immediate family
 - (c) a victim in a criminal trial or a member of their immediate member
 - (d) a witness in a criminal trial
 - (e) a person whose identity is suppressed
 - (f) material subject to a suppression or non-publication order,
 - (g) material that is likely to be prejudicial to other criminal proceedings or a current criminal investigation
 - (h) material that is likely to reveal the existence of a covert operation carried out by law enforcement officials
 - (i) a conference between legal counsel and a client, witness or aide
 - (j) a conference between legal counsel and the presiding judge, and
 - (k) private conversations before, during or after the delivery of the judgment remarks.

Procedures for recording and broadcasting

7. These procedures govern the manner in which the recording and broadcasting of judgment remarks permitted by the Court can take place. The Court may make additional orders regarding the recording and broadcasting of the judgment remarks as it thinks fit.
8. The Court's Media Co-ordinator or other appointed court official must be present in court with the approved news media organisation during the set-up of recording equipment, recording of the judgment remarks, and pack-up of media equipment.
9. The following conditions apply to personnel of the approved news media organisation and equipment in the courtroom during recording and/ or broadcast, unless the Court orders otherwise:
 - (a) Any camera must be fixed and/or positioned to record only the judicial officer who is delivering the judgment remarks
 - (b) no more than one television camera
 - (c) no more than one stills photographer
 - (d) no more than one microphone operator and no obtrusive microphones or wiring
 - (e) no moving equipment when the court is in session
 - (f) no distracting sounds or lights
 - (g) no disruption to proceedings
 - (h) no public expense to install, operate, or remove modifications to existing sound and lighting systems, and
 - (i) no media organisation insignia or marking on equipment
10. Pooling arrangements: Recording will be conducted on a 'pooled' basis. Vision and sound is to be shared with other news media organisations as soon as practical after the conclusion of the judgment remarks. If the vision is to be broadcast live, all news media organisations present must have equal opportunity to access the live feed at the same time.
11. The approved news media organisation must provide a copy of all raw footage taken of the judgment remarks to the Court's Media Co-ordinator as soon as practicable after the recording is made.

Official record of proceedings

12. The transcript produced by the official court reporters is, and will remain, the authoritative record of proceedings.

Issued by
His Honour Justice D Price AM
Chief Judge
District Court of NSW
6 July 2015