

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY
ADDENDUM TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON USE OF CELL PHONES
AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

WHEREAS, on the 14th day of February, 2006, the Court ORDERED “that use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, text messaging or any other communication device is banned in any courtroom in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,” and further restricted the use of any type of photographic or videographic devices in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City;

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City has an ongoing interest in allowing the public access to our Courthouse, but also in improving security in all its courthouses, and

WHEREAS, it has come to the Court’s attention that new technology is available through such mediums as Twitter, Facebook, Linked In, and the like, to provide up to the minute details of any action or occurrence, and that the news media now uses these types of systems regularly to report on news in our City; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Rules still preclude broadcasting of trial court proceedings in every jurisdiction of the State; and

WHEREAS, this Court has determined that the use of such systems as Twitter, Facebook, and the like in the courthouse is broadcasting under the Rules, it is therefore this 5th day of January, 2010, hereby

ORDERED that the Court’s Order of February 14, 2006 is amended to include a ban on the use of any device to transmit information on Twitter, Facebook, Linked In, or

any other current or future form of social networking from any of the courthouses within the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

It is further ORDERED that the Court's Order of February 14, 2006 is corrected with one minor typographical change in the last paragraph, line 4, deleting the word "or" after the word "judge."

It is further ORDERED that the Court's Order of February 14, 2006 remains in full force and effect and that the penalties for violation of any provision of this Addendum are the same as the penalties enumerated in the February 14, 2006 Order.

//s// Marcella A. Holland

Marcella A. Holland
Administrative Judge
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

cc: Frank Conaway, Clerk, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
John W. Anderson, Sheriff, Circuit Court for Baltimore City