

STATE OF MARYLAND

\* IN THE

Plaintiff

\* CIRCUIT COURT

v.

\* FOR

SHEILA ANN DIXON

\* BALTIMORE CITY

Defendant

\* Case No.: **109210015**  
**109210016**

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**MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER**

In order to ensure a fair trial in this case, and to preserve the dignity of the Court while accommodating the interests of the public and the media and in order to cause minimal disruption to the Circuit Court and its neighbors, it is this 4th day of September 2009, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The trial in the above captioned case is scheduled to be conducted in Courtroom 230, Courthouse East, 111 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The presiding judge will be Judge Dennis M. Sweeney (Retired).
2. Mr. Darrell Pressley, Deputy Director, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, State of Maryland Judiciary, telephone no. 443-995-9263, email address: [darrell.pressley@mdcourts.gov](mailto:darrell.pressley@mdcourts.gov), is designated as the Court's media liaison for purposes of this Order. In his absence, Ms. Angelita Plemmer, Director, Office of Communications and Public

Affairs, will act as the media liaison and can be reached at 703-585-7486, email address: [angelita.plemmer@mdcourts.gov](mailto:angelita.plemmer@mdcourts.gov).

3. All media inquiries must be referred to the media liaison.
4. All persons entering the Courthouse must pass through electronic security devices and submit their equipment to search procedures at the discretion of the Sheriff's deputies. Members of the media are requested to refrain from bringing excess bags or backpacks into the Courthouse.
5. No audio or video recording equipment, press cameras or recording or transmitting equipment shall be permitted in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, except as provided in this Order. No tape recorders shall be permitted in Courtroom 230 at anytime.
6. After court adjourns each day, trial exhibits will be made available for the purpose of this Order, for a maximum of 30 minutes in the courtroom, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The exhibits shall be available only one time for the purposes of access by members of the media.
7. The courtroom clerk assigned to the Court for these proceedings shall serve as coordinator of the viewing of trial exhibits and as custodian of same.
8. Limited video or still photography of the exhibits will be permitted in the Courtroom as directed by the coordinator.

9. No “live” television, telephone, radio, or other broadcasts of exhibits shall be permitted during the viewing of exhibits.
10. Certain trial exhibits shall be handled by court-approved technicians or specialists only.
11. The sheriff’s deputy shall accompany the approved still and video cameras into the Courthouse and will remain during the viewing of trial exhibits.
12. Representatives from news organizations shall be permitted in the courtroom as allowed by regulations of the Sheriff and Fire Marshall.
13. Members of the media shall not use cellular telephones within 100 feet of Courtroom 230 during the course of these proceedings. All cellular phones, pagers, PDA’s, etc., must be turned off during court proceedings. Only the media liaison will be allowed to have electronic equipment for any important messages or emergencies that may arise.
14. Only those members of the media obtaining a temporary media pass from the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office shall be permitted in the Courtroom during these proceedings. There will be limited, reserved seating for the media in the Courtroom.
15. Counsel for the parties shall be allowed to be present for any activity permitted by this Order.
16. No one shall be permitted to enter Courtroom 230 or remain therein during these proceedings who is wearing any item on his or her person or

exhibiting any sign which, in the opinion of the Court, may tend to influence any juror or affect the orderly administration of these proceedings.

17. No food or drink is permitted in the Courtroom. Also smoking is not allowed anywhere in the Courthouse.
18. Under no circumstances are members of the media permitted to contact, photograph, or interview jurors during the course of these proceedings.
19. Members of the media shall not photograph vehicles transporting jurors when entering, leaving, or standing in areas of Courthouse East.
20. No court personnel or court-approved specialist shall be recorded, photographed or otherwise depicted in conjunction with the showing of the trial exhibits.
21. Members of the Circuit Court staff shall not be interviewed regarding this case.
22. Media conferences or interviews with the media liaison shall be permitted in a designated room in Courthouse East. The media will be advised of the room at the start of this trial by the media liaison. No media conferences or interviews with attorneys, parties, or witnesses shall be conducted in the Courthouse or at the front entrance of the Courthouse. Media interviews may be held away from the front of the Courthouse and in the park area across from Courthouse East.

23. If members of the media believe that any aspect of this Order is unworkable or inappropriate, they may request modification only if such request is made in sufficient time in advance of the court matter to permit the Court to review the proposed modification.
24. Violations of this Order will subject the violator to a revocation of all media privileges and, if appropriate, to the contempt powers of the Court.
25. This Media Protocol Order is subject to modification by the Court at any time.

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/s/  
MARCELLA A. HOLLAND  
Administrative Judge

cc: All Counsel of Record  
Judge Dennis M. Sweeney  
Mr. Darrell Pressley, Media Liaison  
Ms. Beverly B. Carter, Court Administrator  
Capt. James Butts, Circuit Court for Baltimore City Security