

JUDGES AND THE PRESS, Session 3
June 30, 2023
Chat

Inspirational thought

--“Our destinies are intertwined...”

Frustration buckets for reporters covering the courts:

--1) Technology

When laptops are banned, it is very hard for reporters

--2) not making documents available

Specifically, verdict forms and jury notes need to be shared

Anything that goes on with the jury is of particular interest to the public

--3) Biggest mistake judges can make: forgetting that there are three parties in a big public case...the parties and the public

Best practices courts employ

--Know and follow the law on open access

--Innovate

--Use the court’s website to share resources

--Watch Judge Thompson’s videos from the second program,

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/bji/events/judges-and-the-press/>

--Make the community feel part of the process

--Nevada Eighth District allows reporters to be on the service list; most judges and lawyers serve their filings on us even when they don't have to.

--Consider a high profile case an opportunity to demonstrate that justice can be done in the worst possible moments---spread that message to court staff

--If you can’t have recordings, transcripts (esp. of sidebars) would be great

Help for inexperienced journalists

--The informal training models that once existed for the media aren’t as available.....that increases the need for judges to understand the importance of communicating with the press

-- [Uscourts.gov](#) site has shareable resources, as does [Our Courts Colorado](#).

--media bootcamps (especially prior to high profile cases)

--public libraries

Tensions for all Journalists

Best journalism includes content and nuance...often competing with speed

Common Fears of Judges around recording and access

--Judges draw different lines around protecting the integrity of the court

--SUGGESTION--It would be helpful if a list of the most common fears were made so they could be addressed one by one. Would probably be its own video.

-- Based on my observation (recording 600+ hearings 5 trials) interference with camera access is mostly 1) fear and extreme ignorance of the role of the camera; and, 2) doing a solid for a particular lawyer.

Great offers

--Judge Marcia Krieger offers broad help to interested parties who want to develop programs and says: let [Denise Neary](#), know if you want to be in touch.

--[Ginny LaRoe](#) says: My organization, the First Amendment Coalition, is a resource to anyone seeking to better understand the public's right of access to records, proceedings and the purpose of the press in keeping our communities informed!

-- Thank you for putting this program together. [Our Nevada Judges](#) is going to edit a trailer and publish it with links to your site and full videos.

Recordings

--I would love to share this series with my communication staff (and judges!). Will you make it available via recording? *Sessions are recorded and will be posted to the program page within a week or so. Please share!*

Shout-outs

--Program shout-outs included:

- The faculty
- The participants

- BJI
- Public libraries
- Public information officers