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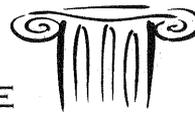
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Press Release

**For Immediate Release
September 23, 2009**

**Contact: June Kress, Executive Director
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Handbook for Journalists on the Courts in D.C. Published

The Council for Court Excellence has published a *Journalists' Handbook to the Courts in the District of Columbia*. The *Journalist's Handbook* is the result of a two-year effort by a diverse and highly experience cross-section of journalists, judges and court public information officers, media attorneys and the civic community to develop the first guide for members of the press who cover the local and federal courts in D.C.

The *Handbook* discusses observing court proceedings, accessing court records, technology, gag orders, interviewing judges, and other topics. It contains key court and agency contact information, journalist FAQs, and a glossary of legal and court terminology.

The project committee is was led by CCE Board members Laura Handman and Eric Lieberman, and its members include Barry Coburn, Lucy Dalglish of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Jerald Fritz of Allbritton Communications Company, Leah Gurowitz of the D.C. Courts, Ron Jessamy, Lee Levine, Chief Judge Lee Satterfield of the D.C. Superior Court, Sheldon Snook of the U.S. District Court for D.C., Arabella Teal, and Kurt Wimmer. The *Handbook* was edited by Andy Glass of Politico and Jack Murphy of the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. CCE thanks them for the considerable time and expertise that they contributed to this project

The Council for Court Excellence, a 27-year-old nonprofit DC civic organization, has a long history of publishing other law-related educational guides – to the foster care system, the probate system, the jury system, and the adult criminal system. Generous support for the *Journalists' Handbook* was provided by the State Justice Institute, the Philip L. Graham Fund, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP, Williams & Connolly LLP, Troutman Sanders LLP, and Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP. The Park Foundation, Inc., provided funding for the web version of the *Handbook*.

Copies of the *Handbook* may be obtained from the Council for Court Excellence and are will be available on-line at
www.courtexcellence.org/PublicationsNew/handbook.shtml.
