

Rule 203. Free Press--Fair Trial

(a) No courthouse personnel, including among others, marshals, court clerks, law clerks, messengers, and court reporters, shall disclose to any person information relating to any civil proceeding that is not part of the public records of the court without specific authorization of the court, nor shall any such personnel discuss the merits or personalities involved in any such proceeding with any members of the public.

(b) No photographs, radio or television broadcasts, or tapes for public replay, shall be made inside the courthouse in connection with any civil proceeding, whether or not the court is in session. Contents of official tapes that are made as a part of the record in a case will be treated in the same manner as official stenographic notes.

(c) No attorney who has undertaken the representation of a litigant in a civil case, whether that case is in progress or imminent, shall release or authorize the release of information not in the public record for dissemination by any means of public communication which is likely to interfere with a fair trial or otherwise prejudice the due administration of justice. No statement shall be disseminated which contains an attorney's opinion as to liability of the parties, credibility of witnesses, motives of the other party, or similar matters bearing on the conduct of the litigation.

(d) In any case which is or is likely to become widely publicized, the court, on motion of either party or on its own motion, may issue a special order governing such matters as extrajudicial statements by parties and witnesses likely to interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial by an impartial jury, the seating and conduct in the courtroom of spectators and news media representatives, the management and sequestration of jurors and witnesses, and any other matters which the court may deem appropriate for inclusion in such an order.