UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

IN RE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES PERMITTED IN COURTHOUSES	GENERAL ORDER 01-13 ORDER DEFINING ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY FOR WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON COURTHOUSES

This order pertains to the use of electronic devices by the bar, media and the public in the courthouses and other dedicated spaces housing the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. These are the Seattle United States Courthouse, the Tacoma Union Station United States Courthouse, and the Vancouver Federal Building. The policy also applies to all other places in which the court holds session.

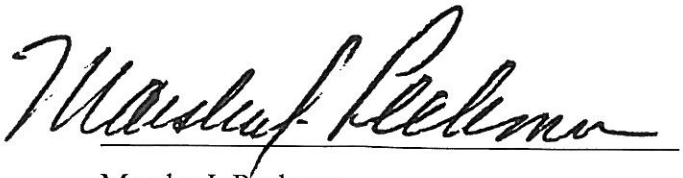
Visitors to any of the Western District of Washington courthouses and dedicated spaces are allowed to carry and make use of various electronic devices as set out by this policy.

General Rules:

1. Anyone may bring electronic devices, such as a Blackberry, smart phone, laptop, or tablet computer or a similar functioning device having wireless communications capability into the courthouse.
2. Except for courtrooms, persons may use such devices in public areas of the courthouse to make telephone calls and to transmit and receive data communications, such as email or text messages, or to access the Internet. For reasons of privacy, safety, and security, use of these devices to take photographs or for audio or video recording or transmission is prohibited in the courthouse (exceptions for court staff, authorized vendors or for educational or ceremonial events).
3. In courtrooms, persons may use such devices to take notes, transmit and receive data communications, and access the Internet. This includes media members who are transmitting written accounts of the proceeding to a wider audience using various means. Persons may not use these devices for telephone calls, photographs or audio or video recording or transmission. Telephone ring tones and other functional sounds produced by devices must be disabled while in the courtroom. Only silent keyboards may be used in the courtrooms.
4. A presiding judge may prohibit or further restrict use of such devices by all persons prior to or during a proceeding when necessary to protect the rights of the parties or to assure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

This order is entered with the agreement of the judges of the court.

Entered this _5th_ day of February, 2013.



Marsha J. Pechman
United States Chief District Judge