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at _____ O'clock & _____ min. _____ M
JUN 21 2011

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

United States Bankruptcy Court
Columbia, South Carolina (38)

IN RE:

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN
THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY
COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER¹

Effective July 1, 2011, the following policy will govern the possession and use of electronic devices in the Columbia and Charleston divisions of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina.²

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items may **not** be brought into courthouse locations: pagers, recording devices, cameras, or other devices as set forth in SC LBR 5073-1, except as provided herein. If such items are brought to the courthouse, they must be left with security upon entering the courthouse locations and will be subject to screening. The Court and the Marshal's Office assume no responsibility for items left with security.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A wireless network has been installed for use by attorneys or authorized litigants. The wireless network is to be used only for legitimate business purposes. A login and password are required for access. Attorneys may receive the login and password from a Courtroom Deputy.

Wireless Communication Devices (such as laptop computers, cell phones, PDAs, tablet computers, and other wireless devices) are allowed in the courthouse locations under the following terms and conditions:

(1) Wireless Communication Devices may be brought into the courthouse locations by an attorney (or support staff accompanying the attorney). Litigants,

¹ This Order shall replace the Administrative Order on this subject entered on September 11, 2007.

² The Bankruptcy Court shares the Spartanburg Courthouse with the U.S. District Court. The policy of the United States District Court regarding Electronic Devices governs whether Wireless Communication Devices may be brought into the Spartanburg Courthouse. If Wireless Communication Devices are permitted in the Spartanburg Courthouse by the U.S. District Court, this policy governs the use of such devices in the bankruptcy courtroom.

witnesses, *pro se* parties, members of the media, and the public may bring wireless communication devices into the courthouse only in connection with a hearing or trial and **only with the prior authorization of the presiding judge**. All Wireless Communication Devices are subject to security screening.

(2) All Wireless Communication Devices must be programmed or rendered to be inaudible upon entering a courtroom or areas adjacent to a courtroom or judicial chambers. Wireless Communication Devices emitting any audible sounds may be confiscated.

(3) Any party bringing a Wireless Communication Device into the United States Bankruptcy Court shall use the device only for purposes of evidence presentation, research, e-mailing, note taking communication, and scheduling in connection with a matter pending before the Court and other legitimate business purposes. Under no circumstances may a device be used to conduct broadcasting,³ televising, recording, or photographing in any courthouse location. Violation of this policy will subject the offender to confiscation of the laptop computer and possible contempt sanctions.

(4) Use is permitted only to the extent that it does not interfere with judicial proceedings or the ability of the public to observe proceedings. A presiding judge may order the discontinuance of the use of such computers at any time.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

Unless otherwise specified herein, the policy regarding the use of Wireless Communication Devices applies to all proceedings conducted in the courthouse locations of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina, including meetings of creditors conducted in those locations pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 341. In the context of § 341 meetings, the United States Trustee or presiding trustee may, in the event of disruption or interference with the meetings, require the muting or discontinuance of the use of a Wireless Communication Device.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.


UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Columbia, South Carolina
June 21, 2011

³ Broadcasting is construed in the broadest sense and includes commentary about court proceedings on the internet or to a third party.