

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In the Matter of

GENERAL ORDER

M - 396

Personal Electronic Devices.

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At its meeting of March 2010, the Board of Judges of the Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, approved adoption of the following general order of the Court, *effective April 1, 2010*:

- (a) No one other than court officials engaged in the conduct of court business shall bring any Personal Electronic Device into the Courthouse¹ *except as permitted by this order*. Any violation of this order may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, fines and forfeiture of the privileges granted herein.
- (b) An *attorney*,² *and only an attorney*, may bring a Personal Electronic Device³ into the Courthouse. In order to comply with this order, identification will be required by the U.S. Marshals upon entry into the Courthouse. A photo ID will be necessary to evidence one's status as an attorney. A photo ID may be used in conjunction with another form of ID to establish attorney status.
- (c) All sound emitting capabilities including, without limitation, any ring tone or vibrating sound, *must* be turned off whenever a Personal Electronic Device is in the Courthouse. Any capability of a Personal Electronic Device to make or record images or sounds shall be turned off during all times the device is in the Courthouse. Nothing herein modifies the policy or rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) or this Court regarding prohibiting the taking of photographs, the use of recording devices and

¹ This order applies only to the Manhattan and Poughkeepsie Courthouses. The White Plains and Middletown Courthouses are governed by the District Court's Standing Order M10-468 dated February 17, 2010, Southern District of New York.

² Any other person may request permission from the presiding judge to bring a Personal Electronic Device into the Courthouse by contacting that judge's chambers.

³ "Personal Electronic Device" includes any cellular telephone, smartphone, Palm Pilot, iPhone, BlackBerry, and other comparable personal digital assistant device. An attorney with both a cellular telephone and a Blackberry or similar device, may take both into the Courthouse provided, however, that the devices belong, or are assigned, to that attorney.

broadcasting in or from the Courthouse.⁴

- (d) Telephone calls may be made from Personal Electronic Devices *only* in *designated* areas in the Courthouse. All use of a Personal Electronic Device *must* comply with posted signage. Attorneys speaking on their phones are expected to do so with common courtesies being mindful of their surroundings. Failure to adhere to these restrictions *will* be grounds to suspend the privilege granted herein.
- (e) The Chief Judge may suspend the privilege of bringing a Personal Electronic Device into the Courthouse under this order. Any attorney whose privilege is suspended may seek review or reinstatement by petitioning the Board of Judges in writing.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ Arthur J. Gonzalez

Arthur J. Gonzalez
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: New York, New York
March 23, 2010

⁴ See Local Bankruptcy Rule 5073-1.