

Media Reporting of Trials in New York State Courts

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Background and History

- In 1935, federal and many state court prohibited media coverage of trials after the coverage of the Lindberg Baby Kidnapping trial.
- In 1982, media advocates call for Legislature to permit televised coverage of trials
- L 1987, ch 113, New York Judiciary Law § 218 permits courts to allow cameras an experiment
- On June 30, 1997, Legislature does not re-enact law.
- On July 1, 1997, ban on televising of court proceedings resumes.

Civil Rights Law § 52 Televising, broadcasting or taking motion pictures of certain proceedings prohibited

- L 1952, ch 241
 - Banned audiovisual coverage of public proceedings, including court proceedings, where testimony by subpoena was taken.
 - Governor's Approval Mem 1952 McKinney's Session Laws of NY at 1366 and 1952 NY Legis Ann at 3666;
 - Sponsor's Mem 1952 NY Legis Ann at 44.
 - Bill jacket contains : Report on Radio and Television Broadcasting of Hearings of Congressional Investigation Comms. An Assoc of the Bar of the City New York. Comm on the Bill of Rights. Minority Report follows. A 1948 report is mentioned in the first paragraph.
- L 1962, ch 706
 - Governor's Approval Mem 1962 McKinney's Session Laws of NY at 3660, 1962 NY Legis Ann at 373. Bill jacket digitized in NYSL New York State Legislative Bill Jacket file.
- L 1976, ch 352.
- Judiciary Law § 218 Audio-visual coverage of judicial proceedings
- L 1987, Ch 113, "To authorize a temporary, experimental program whereunder the Chief Judge of the State may permit, limited, judicially supervised audio-visual coverage of civil and criminal court proceedings for a period of thirty months."
 - 1987 Sponsor's Mem 1987 NY Legis Ann at 74 .
 - Section 3 Chief Administrator of the Courts required to submit a report on audio-visual coverage and conduct survey.
- L 1989, Ch 115, Renewed "An Act to amend the judiciary law and chapter 113 of the laws of 1987 amending the judiciary law relating to audio-visual coverage of judiciary proceedings, in relation to regulating audio-visual coverage of judicial proceedings and extending the provision for such coverage until 1991.
 - Bill jacket. Sponsor's Mem 1989 NY Legis Ann at 110
 - L 1989, ch 115 § 9 Advisory committee of five individuals, to be created by chief administrator of the court to assist in preparing its report as required by L 1987, ch 113
- L 1992, ch 187, Repealed and added new § 218 "An act to amend the judiciary law, in relation to audio-visual coverage of judicial proceedings and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto"

- Sponsor's Mem 1992 NY Legis Ann at 110 ; Mem of Off of Ct Admin 1992 McKinney's Session Laws of NY at 3115; Governor's Approval Mem 1992 McKinney's Session Laws of NY at 2879
- L 1992, ch 187 § 9 Review committee of twelve individuals to be formed.
- L. 1992, ch 274. Technical corrections. Sponsor's Memorandum 1992 NY Legis Ann at 160
- L. 1993, ch 348. Sealing of orders prohibited. Sponsor's Memorandum 1993 New York Legis Ann at 250 ; Mem of Off of Ct Admin 1993 McKinney's Session Laws of NY at 3185
- L 1995, ch 8. To extend the experiment in audio visual coverage of judicial proceedings. Sunsets on June 30, 1997
 - Sponsor's Memorandum 1995 New York Legis Ann at 48. [t](#)
 - Legislature appointed a second commission chaired by Fordham Law School Dean John Feerick. The Feerick Commission held four public hearings
- On June 30, 1997, Legislature does not re-enact law.
- On July 1, 1997, ban on televising of court proceedings resumes.

Court Rules

[22 NYCRR 29 Electronic Recording and Audio-Visual Coverage in Court Facilities and of Court Proceedings](#)

Sec filed May 3, 1971; repealed, new filed Feb 2, 1982, amds filed May 28, 1985; April 1, 1996 effec March 21, 1996 amd through Court Notes in the July 20, 2016 Register

[29 NYCRR Part 131 Audio-Visual Coverage of Judicial Proceedings](#)

Memorandum. June 11, 2015 [Proposed amendment of 22 NYCRR Parts 29 and 131, relating to electronic recording and audio-visual coverage of court proceedings.](#)

Adopted by corrected order on Feb 1, 2016, eff March 1, 2016 [AO/017/16](#)

New York State Documents.

- Publications held in New York State Library Catalog. Many have electronic access through the NYSL catalog.
- Listed by date and committee

[New York Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary](#)

New York (State). Legislature. Senate. Standing Committee on Judiciary. Cameras in the courtroom: a proposal for a New York State experiment / prepared by the staff of the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee ; John R. Dunne, chairman. [Albany, N.Y.? : The Committee, 1986]. 18 p.

[New York State Committee on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings.](#)

New York (State). Committee on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Report of the Committee on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. [Bronx, N.Y. (851 Grand Concourse, 10451): The Committee, 1994] ix, 106, [4] leaves.

An Open Courtroom: Cameras in New York Courts, 1995-97: Executive Summary and Recommendations. New York (State). Comm on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings, 1997. 1-5, 77-81 p.

An Open Courtroom: Cameras in New York Courts. New York State Committee to Review Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Bronx, NY: Fordham Univ Press, 1997, xxi, 243 p.

New York (State). Committee on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. New York State Committee to Review Audiovisual Coverage of Court Proceedings: minority report / by Leonard E. Noisette. New York, NY (Fordham Law School, Office of the Dean, 140 W. 62nd St., 10023) : The Committee, [1997] 26 p.

Committee on Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. An open courtroom: cameras in New York courts, 1995-97 / New York State Committee to Review Audio Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Cameras in New York courts, 1995-97 Imprint: New York, NY (Fordham Law School, Office of the Dean, 140 W. 62nd St., 10023) : The Committee, [1997] 1 V.

An open courtroom: cameras in New York courts / New York State Committee to Review Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Variant title: Cameras in New York courts. Bronx, N.Y. : Fordham University Press, 1997. xxi, 243 p. ; 25 cm.

[Legislature Committee Hearings](#)

[New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary](#)

New York (State). Legislature. Assembly. Standing Committee on Judiciary. TV in the courts: April 16th, 1982 / the New York State Assembly. New York: EN-DE Reporting Services, [1982] 146 p. Transcript of hearing held before the Assembly Judiciary Committee, Saul Weprin, chair.

[New York State Senate Judiciary Committee and New York State Assembly Judiciary Committee](#)

Public hearing on cameras in the Courtroom. New York State Senate Judiciary Committee and New York State Assembly Judiciary Committee. Tuesday, April 23, 1991. 281 p.

[New York State Committee to Review Audiovisual Coverage of Court Proceedings](#)

Cameras in the courtroom: February 27, 1996 [i.e. 1997], 140 West 62nd Street, New York, New York. [New York, N.Y.?] : M.T. Doyle, official court reporter, [1997]. 79 p. Note: Transcript of hearing held before the New York State Committee to Review Audiovisual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Chair: John D. Feerick.

New York State Committee to Review Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings: date, October 29, 1996, time, 9:30 a.m. [New York, N.Y.? : M.E. Rivera, official court reporter, 1996]. 260 p.

Public hearing on cameras in the courts : held at, Fordham University School of Law, date, November 1, 1996. Day no. 2, 9:30 a.m. / conducted by John D. Feerick. [New York, N.Y.?] : D.M. Carucci, R. Lueddeke, B.Pilnik, official court reporters, [1996] 348 leaves ; 28 cm.

Public hearing on cameras in the courts held at, Fordham University School of Law, date, November 12, 1996. Day no. 2, 9:30 a.m. / conducted by John D. Feerick.[New York, N.Y.?] : D.M. Carucci, R. Lueddeke, B. Pilnik, official court reporters, [1996] 348 P.

Public hearing, Thursday, November 14, 1996, NYS Bar Association, Albany, New York / New York State Committee to Review Audio-Visual Coverage of Court Proceedings. [Albany, N.Y.? : C. Affinati, official court reporter, 1996] 238 P.

In the matter of, public hearings to review audio-visual coverage of court proceedings : Hall of Justice, Rochester, New York, December 17, 1996.[Rochester, N.Y.?] : M.J. DeVito, S. Furgiuele [court reporters], [1996]. 229 p. Note: Transcript of hearing held before the New York State Committee to Review Audiovisual Coverage of Court Proceedings. Chair: John D. Feerick

OCA /Court Documents

New York (State). Court of Appeals. Media Advisory Committee. Interim report to the Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. 1980 20 p.

New York (State). Office of Court Administration. Report of the Chief Administrative Judge to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Judge of the State of New York on the effect of audio-visual coverage on the conduct of judicial proceedings. Albert M. Rosenblatt, Chief Administrative Judge. [Albany, N.Y.] : State of New York, Unified Court System, [1989] 113, [23] p. Accompanied by: Appendices A & B. 1 v. (various pagings) : ill. ; 28 cm.

Report of the Chief Administrator to the New York State Legislature, the Governor, and the Chief Judge on the effect of audio-visual coverage on the conduct of judicial proceedings / Matthew T. Crosson. [Albany, N.Y.?] : State of New York, Unified Court System, [1991] viii, vi, 181, 132 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

New York (State). Office of Court Administration. Report of the chief administrative judge to the New York state legislature, the governor and the chief judge on the effect of electronic recording of judicial proceedings in the Court of Claims and surrogate's courts / Hon. E. Leo Milonas, chief administrative judge of the courts. [Albany? : Office of Court Administration, 1994] 48 p.

New York (State). Office of Court Administration. Report of the Chief Administrative Judge to the New York State Legislature, the Governor and the Chief Judge on the effect of electronic recording of judicial proceedings in the Court of Claims and surrogate's courts / Hon. E. Leo Milonas, chief administrative judge of the courts. Variant title: Effect of electronic recording of judicial proceedings in the Court of Claims and surrogate's courts Imprint: [Albany, N.Y.? : Office of Court Administration, 1995] 1 v.

New York (State). Office of Court Administration. Report of the chief administrative judge to the New York State Legislature, the governor, and the chief judge on the effect of electronic recording in the state court system / Jonathan Lippman. [Albany, N.Y.? : Office of Court Administration, 1997]. 1 v.

Articles

Jay C. Carlise, An Open Courtroom: Should Cameras Be Permitted in New York State Courts?, 18 Pace L. Rev. 297 (1998) This article provides a history of the Feerick Commission and the Legislature's actions. An excellent article.

Charlotte A. Carter. Media in the Courts, Williamsburg, VA 23185: National Center for State Courts, 1981. The Court Manager, 21-22, Summer 1997.

Janet Greenhut,.Lights ... Camera ... Action !!! It's Trial Time, Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 1996.

Jerrienne Hayslet., What a Difference a Lens Makes, The Court manager 21-22 (Summer 1997)

Advocacy Groups and Bar Associations

Law and the press : [background papers and summary of 1975 conference at Columbia Law School / A conference sponsored jointly by the New York Fair Trial Free Press Conference, New York State Society of Newspaper Editors, New York State Bar Association]. Albany : New York Bar Foundation, [1975] vii, 88 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

The rights of fair trial and free press: The American Bar Association standards: an information manual for the bar, news media, law enforcement officials, and courts. The Committee, 1981

Public Defense Backup Center. The intrusion of cameras in New York's criminal courts a report. 31 p. Albany, N.Y. : New York State Defenders Association, [1989]

New York State Defenders Association. Cameras in NY Courtrooms White Paper.1999

New York State Bar Association. Special Comm on Cameras in the Courtroom. [Final Report to the House of Delegates](#). March 31, 2001. 382 p.

Cameras in the Courts: Enhancing Transparency in the New York State Judiciary. The Fund for Modern Courts May 16, 2022 [Cameras-in-the-Courts-Enhancing-Transparency-in-the-New-York-State-Judiciary.pdf](#) (moderncourts.org) [Accessed April 3, 2023]

Subject headings

- Audiotapes in courtroom proceedings – New York (State)
- Citizen Court Watching
- Conduct of court proceedings – New York (State)
- Confidential communications--Press--New York (State)
- Court Reporting
- Courtroom Proceedings Broadcasting
- Criminal procedure--New York (State)
- Free press and fair trial – New York (State)
- Journalists--- Legal status, laws, etc.--- New York (State)
- Media coverage
- Press law--- New York (State)
- Pretrial publicity
- Public Education
- Public Opinion of the Courts
- Television broadcasting of court proceedings – New York (State)
- Television broadcasting of news – New York (State)
- Television Programming
- Trial Procedure
- Video tapes in court room proceedings – New York (State)

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