STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA   IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
COUNTY OF HENDERSON   SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CONCERNING THE
USE OF MOBILE DEVICES IN SUPERIOR COURT

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       This matter came on to be heard concerning a policy governing the use of mobile devices in the Superior Courts of Henderson County. It is recognized that devices such as cell phones, smart phones and tablets can be useful tools for attorneys and court personnel during court sessions. It is further recognized that such devices can be a distraction to others and their use by persons in the courtroom gallery may pose security risks. It is therefore ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Attorneys and court personnel may use their mobile devices in a discreet manner so as not to distract others and not disturb court proceedings. This use does not include telephone calls, which are prohibited. "Court personnel" includes clerks, bailiffs and persons who are given regular access into the well of the courtroom and to seating in an unused jury box area, whether or not such persons are actually in said areas when using mobile devices.
2. Persons who are not attorneys or court personnel may not talk or text on mobile devices inside the courtroom. Bailiffs are given authority to temporarily confiscate any mobile device used inappropriately.
3. No mobile device may be used to record still or moving images inside the courtroom without the consent of the presiding judge.
4. Bailiffs are given discretion to caution attorneys and court personnel if their use of mobile devices is, in the belief and discretion of the bailiffs, distracting others in the courtroom or disturbing court proceedings. Bailiffs are further given authority to direct such users to leave the courtroom or to temporarily confiscate any mobile device, if in the bailiffs' belief and discretion, such actions are necessary to ensure orderly court proceedings.
5. This order is subject to modification by the judge presiding over any session.

This the 9th day of March, 2015.

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Mark E. Powell
Superior Court Judge