

## Supreme Court

In re Amendment to Article VII of the :  
Supreme Court Rules, Canons 12 and 13 :  
(Media Coverage of Judicial Proceedings) :

### ORDER

Canons 12 and 13, within Article VII of the Supreme Court Rules, which is entitled “Media Coverage of Judicial Proceedings,” are hereby amended to read as follows:

\* \* \*

### RULES OF MEDIA ACCESS

\* \* \*

**Canon 12. Governance of media by Chief Justice, Presiding Justice, ~~or~~ Chief Judges or Chief Magistrate.** – The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Justice of the Superior Court, ~~or~~ the Chief Judges of the Family, ~~or~~ District, or Workers’ Compensation Courts, or the Chief Magistrate of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal may in their discretion issue special orders concerning the conduct or presence of media representatives and/or equipment in areas of the courthouse outside a particular courtroom that is subject to the control of the trial justice or magistrate. These orders may, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, include the assignment of areas or restriction of areas used by media representatives for the placing of equipment and parking of vehicles – whether these vehicles are utilized to assist in broadcasting or otherwise – as well as limitations upon placing of equipment on land or sidewalks contiguous to a courthouse assigned to the use of courts under the supervision of the Chief Justice, Presiding Justice, ~~or~~ Chief Judges or Chief Magistrate. For violation of orders issued, the Chief Justice, the Presiding Justice, ~~or~~ the Chief Judges, or the Chief Magistrate may exclude media representatives and/or equipment from areas under his or her control for the duration of a trial or other proceedings or for such other period as he or she may deem appropriate in his or her discretion.

**Canon 13. Evaluation of program.** – A media Advisory Board to the Chief Justice (consisting of the Chief Justice, the Associate Justices of this court, the Presiding Justice of the Superior Court, the Chief Judge of the Family Court, ~~and~~ the Chief Judge of the District Court, the Chief Judge of the Workers’ Compensation Court and the Chief Magistrate of the Traffic Tribunal) will continue to evaluate the effects of media access to

judicial proceedings. To this end the Advisory Board, directly or through its agents retained for this purpose, may submit to trial judges, parties, witnesses, jurors, and other participants in trial proceedings questionnaires to be completed, or may cause such individuals to be interviewed as part of the evaluation process. All trial justices, parties, witnesses, jurors, and other participants in trial proceedings are expected to cooperate fully with the Advisory Board to the Chief Justice, or its agents, in this evaluation process and the furnishing of all relevant information in implementation thereof.

Entered as an Order of this Court this **26<sup>th</sup>** day of **April 2012**.

By Order,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Suttell, C. J.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Goldberg, J.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Flaherty, J.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Robinson, J.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Indeglia, J.