



June 19, 2021

Our Nevada Judges
(702) 374-3530
admin@ournevadajudges.com

To: Elizabeth Brown, Clerk of the Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 684-1600

Re: ADKT 581

Please consider this my written comment related to ADKT 581. It would benefit the Commission to have at least one member with a media background that understands the dynamics of electronic coverage of judicial proceedings. During the pandemic, the transition to virtual hearings had a largely beneficial impact on electronic coverage, but there were also troubles that arose. Multiple attorneys have exploited the pandemic to object to electronic coverage, arguing that SCR 229-246 does not apply (for a variety of reasons). Whether a news reporter has a right to record and broadcast a virtual hearing automatically or by the permission of the court, and to what extent, is unclear, and I would point out that other news reporters have notified me that a federal judge had specifically ordered that, despite the hearing being virtual, prohibition of electronic coverage by the federal judiciary remains in effect.

If interested I can provide details; the point I would like to make is that existing rules make it unclear as to how electronic coverage of virtual hearings would occur, and while I appreciate most departments in Districts¹ 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 10 were cooperative, there are still some attorneys who exploit these ambiguities, and there are specific departments that have been uncooperative.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Falconi
Administrator

¹ I echo the concerns raised by Marshal Willick in his 6/14/2021 letter providing public comment that rural districts show significant resistance not only to court access but also to electronic coverage. This has begun to wane in 2021 as they become familiar with Our Nevada Judges, but was a constant issue in 2020.