

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS PARTICIPATES IN THE NATIONAL CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM PILOT PROGRAM

CHICAGO – On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois video-recorded its first hearing under the National Cameras in the Courtroom Pilot Program.

The case was 10-cv-0204, *Sloan Valve Company v. Zurn Industries, Inc. et al*, Northern District of Illinois. Judge Amy St. Eve, who is a member of the United States Judicial Conference committee overseeing the Pilot Program, is the district judge who presided at the digitally recorded hearing in that case. The recording is available for viewing by accessing the Northern District of Illinois' website, www.ilnd.uscourts.gov.

Chief Judge James F. Holderman stated, "As the third largest federal district court, we volunteered to be a part of the Cameras in the Courtroom Pilot Program so that our court could assist the Judicial Conference of the United States in forming a policy on Cameras in the Courtroom for civil proceedings." Holderman continued, "I encourage attorneys interested in participating in the Cameras in the Courtroom Pilot Program to first review the procedures on our website and then submit the consent form to the judge presiding over their case."

The Northern District of Illinois is among fourteen United States District Courts selected to participate in a three-year Digital Video Recording Pilot project to evaluate the effect of cameras in the courtroom. The pilot program will conclude in July of 2014. During the pilot, civil bench and jury trials, as well as civil motions hearings may be recorded by local court personnel and published to a website where they will be available to view or download by parties, counsel, and the general public.

The pilot will record civil trials and hearings. Consent of all parties is required to record the proceeding. A party may consent to the recording of a particular hearing in their case, but not consent to the recording of other proceedings in that same case. Even with full party consent, the presiding judge has the discretion to not record proceedings or testimony in a trial or hearing, in the interests of privacy or to protect a sensitive matter. Similarly, the presiding judge has the discretion to not publish all or part of a trial or hearing after it has been recorded. If a particular witness has expressed a desire to not be recorded, either the witness or an attorney should inform the presiding judge who can decide after conferring with the parties whether to record that witness or provide other appropriate relief. The recordings will not cover prospective jurors during voir dire or the jurors or alternate jurors during the proceedings.

Parties and counsel will be able to access the recordings within a reasonable amount of time, through a link to the uscourts.gov website and through the Northern District of Illinois' website. The video recordings will not serve as the official record of the proceedings.

The Committee on Court Administration and Case Management ("CACM") of the Judicial Conference has adopted guidelines for the participating courts to follow. Criminal proceedings will not be recorded under any circumstance. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov/CameraInCourt.aspx>