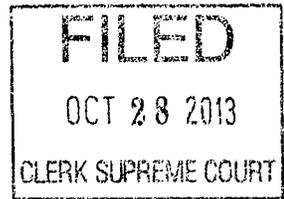


CHAPTER 25
RULES FOR EXPANDED NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE



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CHAPTER 25 RULES FOR EXPANDED NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE

Rule 25.1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

"Expanded news media coverage" includes broadcasting, televising, electronic recording, or photographing of judicial proceedings for the purpose of gathering and disseminating news to the public. includes broadcasting, recording, photographing, and live electronic reporting of judicial proceedings by the news media for gathering and disseminating in any medium. Expanded news media coverage shall be limited to the news media unless otherwise ordered by the judge.

"Good cause" for purposes of exclusion under this chapter means that coverage will have a substantial effect upon the objector which would be qualitatively different from the effect on members of the public in general and that such effect will be qualitatively different from coverage by other types of news media.

"Judge" means the magistrate, district associate judge, or district judge presiding in a trial court proceeding, or the presiding judge or justice in an appellate proceeding.

"Judicial proceedings" or "proceedings" shall include all public trials, hearings, or other proceedings in a trial or appellate court, for which expanded news media coverage is requested, except those specifically excluded by this chapter.

"News media" shall include any person who regularly gathers, prepares, photographs, records, writes, edits, reports, or publishes news or information about matters of public interest in any medium, and who successfully applied to participate in expanded news media coverage and agreed to comply with all court rules.

"News Media media coordinator" shall include news media coordinating councils as well as the designees of such coordinators or councils.

Rule 25.2 General Rules. No expanded news media coverage shall occur without prior authorization from the judge. Broadcasting, televising, recording, and photographing Expanded news media coverage will be permitted in the courtroom and adjacent areas during sessions of the court, including recesses between sessions, under the following conditions:

25.2(1) Permission first shall have been granted expressly by the judge, who may prescribe such conditions of coverage as provided for in this chapter.

25.2(2) Expanded news media coverage of a proceeding shall be permitted, unless the judge concludes, for reasons stated on the record, that under the circumstances of the particular proceeding such coverage would materially interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial.

25.2(3) Expanded news media coverage of a witness also may be refused by the judge upon objection and showing of good cause by the witness. In prosecutions for sexual abuse, or for charges in which sexual abuse is an included offense or an essential element of the charge, there shall be no expanded news media coverage of the testimony of a victim/witness unless such witness consents. Further, an objection to coverage by a victim/witness in any other forcible felony prosecution, and by police informants, undercover agents, and relocated witnesses, shall enjoy a rebuttable presumption of validity. The presumption is rebutted by a showing that expanded news media coverage will not have a substantial effect upon the particular individual objecting to such coverage which would be qualitatively different from the effect on members of the public in general and that such effect will not be qualitatively different from coverage by other types of news media.

25.2(4) Expanded news media coverage is prohibited of any court proceeding which, under Iowa law, is required to be held in private. In any event, no coverage shall be permitted in any juvenile, dissolution, adoption, child custody, or trade secret cases unless consent on the record is obtained from all parties (including a parent or guardian of a minor child).

25.2(5) Expanded news media coverage of jury selection is prohibited. Expanded news media coverage of the return of the jury's verdict shall be permitted. In all other circumstances, however, expanded news media coverage of jurors is prohibited except to the extent it is unavoidable in the coverage of other trial participants or courtroom proceedings. The policy of the rules in this chapter is to prevent unnecessary or prolonged photographic or video coverage of individual jurors.

25.2(6) There shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences in a court proceeding between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel, between counsel and the presiding judge held at the bench or in chambers, or between judges in an appellate proceeding.

25.2(7) The quantity and types of equipment permitted in the courtroom shall be subject to the discretion of the judge within the guidelines set out in this chapter.

25.2(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of any of the procedural or technical rules in this chapter, the presiding judge, upon application of the news media coordinator, may permit the use of equipment or

1 techniques at variance therewith, provided the application for variance is included in the advance notice
2 of coverage provided for in rule 25.3(2). Objections, if any, shall be made as provided by rule

3 25.3(3). Ruling upon such a variance application shall be in the sole discretion of the presiding
4 judge. Such variances may be allowed by the presiding judge without advance application or notice if
5 all counsel and parties consent to it.

6 25.2(9) The judge may, as to any or all news media participants, limit or terminate photographic or
7 electronic news media coverage at any time during the proceedings in the event the judge finds that
8 rules established under this chapter, or additional rules imposed by the presiding judge, have been
9 violated or that substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by
10 such manner of coverage if it is allowed to continue.

11 25.2(10) The rights of photographic and electronic coverage provided for herein may be exercised
12 only by persons or organizations which are part of the news media.

13 25.2(11) A judge may authorize expanded news media coverage of investitive or ceremonial
14 proceedings at variance with the procedural and technical rules of this chapter as the judge sees fit.
15

16 **Rule 25.3 Procedural Rules.**

17 25.3(1) Media News media coordinator and coordinating councils. Media News media coordinators
18 shall be appointed by the supreme court from a list of nominees provided by a representative of the
19 news media designated by the supreme court. The judge and all interested members of the news media
20 shall work, whenever possible, with and through the appropriate news media coordinator regarding all
21 arrangements for expanded news media coverage. The supreme court shall designate the jurisdiction of
22 each news media coordinator. In the event a news media coordinator has not been nominated or is not
23 available for a particular proceeding, the judge may deny expanded news media coverage or may
24 appoint an individual from among local working representatives of the news media to serve as the
25 coordinator for the proceeding.

26 25.3(2) Advance notice of coverage.

27 a. Upon written or oral request made to the magistrate or judge presiding over an initial appearance,
28 expanded news media coverage shall be allowed at all initial appearances in criminal cases. Such
29 coverage is subject to objection by either the prosecutor or defendant or defendant's counsel.

30 a. b. Regarding all proceedings except initial appearances in criminal cases, All all requests by
31 representatives of the news media to use photographic equipment, television cameras, or electronic
32 sound recording equipment in the courtroom for expanded news media coverage shall be made to the
33 news media coordinator. The news media coordinator, in turn, shall inform counsel for all parties and
34 the presiding judge at least 14seven days in advance of the time the proceeding is scheduled to begin,
35 but these times may be extended or reduced by court order. When the proceeding is not scheduled at
36 least 14 seven days in advance, however, the news media coordinator or news media coordinating
37 council shall give notice of the request as soon as practicable after the proceeding is scheduled.

38 b. c. Notice shall be in writing, filed electronically or by paper copy in with the appropriate clerk's
39 office clerk of district court. A copy of the notice shall be sent by ordinary mail electronically,
40 delivered by ordinary mail, or delivered in person to the last known address contact of all counsel of
41 record, parties appearing without counsel, the appropriate court administrator, and the judge expected to
42 preside at the proceeding for which expanded news media coverage is being requested.

43 e. d. The notice form in rule 25.5 is illustrative and not mandatory.

44 25.3(3) Objections.

45 a. Regarding initial appearances in criminal cases, the defendant shall be advised by the judge of his
46 or her right to orally object to expanded news media coverage prior to the commencement of the
47 proceeding and any such objection shall be heard and determined by the judge prior to the
48 commencement of the proceeding. The judge shall rule on the basis of the oral objection alone.

49 a. b. Regarding all proceedings except initial appearances in criminal cases, A a party to a
50 proceeding objecting to expanded news media coverage under rule 25.2(2) shall file a written
51 objection, stating the grounds therefor, at least three business days before commencement of the
52 proceeding. All witnesses shall be advised by counsel proposing to introduce their testimony of their
53 right to object to expanded news media coverage, and all objections by witnesses under rule 25.2(3)
54 shall be filed prior to commencement of the proceeding. Witnesses shall be entitled to the assistance of
55 the clerk of the district court in providing copies of this objection to all counsel of record, parties
56 appearing without counsel, the news media coordinator for the judicial district, the district court
57 administrator for the judicial district, and the judicial officer expected to preside in the proceeding. The
58 objection forms in rule 25.5 are illustrative and not mandatory. All objections shall be heard and
59 determined by the judge prior to the commencement of the proceedings. The judge may rule on the
60 basis of the written objection alone. In addition, the objecting party or witness, and all other parties,

1 may be afforded an opportunity to present additional evidence by affidavit or by such other means as the
2 judge directs. The judge in absolute discretion may permit presentation of such evidence by the news
3 media coordinator in the same manner. Time for filing of objections may be extended or reduced in the
4 discretion of the judge, who also, in appropriate circumstances, may extend the right of objection to
5 persons not specifically provided for in this chapter.
6

7 **Rule 25.4 Technical Rules.**

8 **25.4(1) Equipment specifications.** Equipment to be used by the news media in courtrooms during
9 judicial proceedings must be unobtrusive and must not produce distracting sound. In addition, such
10 equipment must satisfy the following criteria, where applicable:

11 *a. Still cameras.* Still cameras and lenses must be unobtrusive, without distracting light or sound.

12 *b. Television cameras and related equipment.* Television cameras are to be electronic and, together
13 with any related equipment to be located in the courtroom, must be unobtrusive in both size and
14 appearance, without distracting sound or light. Television cameras are to be designed or modified so that
15 participants in the judicial proceedings being covered are unable to determine when recording is
16 occurring.

17 *c. Audio equipment.* Microphones, wiring, and audio recording equipment shall be unobtrusive and
18 shall be of adequate technical quality to prevent interference with the judicial proceeding being covered.
19 Any changes in existing audio systems must be approved by the presiding judge. No modifications of
20 existing systems shall be made at public expense. Microphones for use of counsel and judges shall must
21 be equipped with off/on switches to facilitate compliance with rule 25.2(6).

22 *d. Other electronic devices.* All electronic devices used for recording audio, video, or still images
23 must adhere to Rule 25.4(3)(a). All other electronic devices not used for recording audio, video, or still
24 images must be unobtrusive, without distracting light or sound, and are not subject to the limitations of
25 25.4(3)(a). Other electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laptop computers, cellular
26 telephones, personal digital assistants, smart phones, and tablet computers.

27 *d.e. Advance approval.* It shall be the duty of news media personnel to demonstrate to the presiding
28 judge reasonably in advance of the proceeding that the equipment sought to be utilized meets the criteria
29 set forth in this rule. Failure to obtain advance judicial approval for equipment may preclude its use in
30 the proceeding. All news media equipment and personnel shall be in place at least fifteen minutes prior
31 to the scheduled time of commencement of the proceeding.

32 **25.4(2) Lighting.** Other than light sources already existing in the courtroom, no flashbulbs or other
33 artificial light device of any kind shall be employed in the courtroom. With the concurrence of the
34 presiding judge, however, modifications may be made in light sources existing in the courtroom (e.g.,
35 higher wattage lightbulbs), provided such modifications are installed and maintained without public
36 expense.

37 **25.4(3) Equipment and pooling.** The following limitations on the amount of equipment and number
38 of photographic and broadcast news media personnel in the courtroom shall apply:

39 ~~*a. Still photography.* Not more than two still photographers, each using not more than two camera
40 bodies and two lenses, shall be permitted in the courtroom during a judicial proceeding at any one time.~~

41 ~~*b. Television.* Not more than two television cameras, each operated by not more than one camera
42 person, shall be permitted in the courtroom during a judicial proceeding. Where possible, recording and
43 broadcasting equipment which is not a component part of a television camera shall be located outside of
44 the courtroom.~~

45 ~~*e. Audio.* Not more than one audio system shall be set up in the courtroom for broadcast coverage of
46 a judicial proceeding. Audio pickup for broadcast coverage shall be accomplished from any existing
47 audio system present in the courtroom, if such pickup would be technically suitable for broadcast.
48 Where possible, electronic audio recording equipment and any operating personnel shall be located
49 outside of the courtroom.~~

50 *a. Video recording, audio recording, and still photography.* Not more than five total members of
51 the news media using still cameras, television cameras, audio recorders, and electronic devices, or any
52 combination of the four, used to photograph, video, or record audio are permitted in the courtroom
53 during a judicial proceeding. Each still photographer may use two camera bodies each with a fixed lens
54 or one camera body and two lenses. Where possible, all recording and broadcasting equipment that is
55 not a component part of a camera or an electronic device and any operating personnel shall be located
56 outside of the courtroom. Audio pickup for broadcast coverage shall be accomplished from any existing
57 audio system present in the courtroom if such pickup would be technically suitable for broadcast.

58 ~~*d.b. Pooling.* Where the above limitations on equipment and personnel make it necessary, the news~~
59 ~~media shall be required to pool equipment and personnel. Pooling arrangements shall be the sole~~
60 ~~responsibility of the news media coordinator, and the presiding judge shall not be called upon to mediate~~

1 any dispute as to the appropriate news media representatives authorized to cover a particular judicial
2 proceeding. Representatives of news media shall be responsible for contributing to electronic pool
3 coverage of judicial proceedings when necessary. If a news organization is incapable of contributing to
4 pool coverage, the news media coordinator may allow the news organization to share the pool coverage
5 or may restrict the news organization's coverage.

6 **25.4(4) Location of equipment and personnel.** Equipment and operating personnel, including news
7 media using electronic devices to transmit and receive data communication, shall be located in, and
8 coverage of the proceedings shall take place from, an area or areas within the courtroom designated by
9 the presiding judge. The area or areas designated shall provide reasonable access to the proceeding to be
10 covered.

11 **25.4(5) Electronic devices.** The devices defined in rule 25.4(1)(a)-(d) may be used in the courtroom
12 to transmit and receive data communications provided that the equipment does not make any disruptive
13 noise or interfere with court equipment. Electronic devices may not be used by anyone in the courtroom
14 for telephone calls. Electronic devices may not be used by anyone in the courtroom for photography,
15 video recording, audio recording, or streaming video unless approved by the presiding judge in advance
16 of the proceeding as defined in Rule 25.4(3)(a). The rule applies to news media only as defined in Rule
17 25.1. Use of such communication by others is prohibited.

18 **25.4(5)(6) Movement during proceedings.** Television cameras and audio equipment may be
19 installed in or removed from the courtroom only when the court is not in session. In addition, such
20 equipment shall at all times be operated from a fixed position. Still photographers, news media using
21 electronic devices, and broadcast news media personnel shall not move about the courtroom while
22 proceedings are in session, nor shall they engage in any movement which attracts undue attention. ~~Still~~
23 ~~photographers shall not assume body positions inappropriate for spectators.~~

24 **25.4(6)(7) Decorum.** All still photographers and broadcast news media personnel shall be properly
25 attired and shall maintain proper courtroom decorum at all times while covering a judicial proceeding.
26

27 **Rule 25.5 Rules specific to the supreme court and court of appeals.**

28 **25.5(1) ~~Video recording, Internet streaming, and Expanded~~ news media coverage of oral**
29 **arguments.**

30 *a.* All regularly scheduled supreme court and court of appeals oral arguments shall be subject to
31 ~~video recording,~~ streaming over the Internet, and expanded news media coverage. The rules in this
32 chapter allowing objections to expanded news media coverage do not apply to supreme court and court
33 of appeals oral arguments.

34 *b.* The prohibitions in rule 25.2(4) on the types of cases subject to expanded news media coverage
35 do not apply to supreme court and court of appeals oral arguments.

36 **25.5(2) Expanded news media coverage.**

37 *a.* The rules in this chapter pertaining to expanded news media coverage apply only to news media
38 coverage occurring within the supreme court and court of appeals courtrooms. Recordings of supreme
39 court and court of appeals oral arguments made from other locations within the judicial building are not
40 subject to the rules on expanded news media coverage.

41 *b.* A written request for expanded news media coverage within the supreme court and court of
42 appeals courtrooms must be filed with the clerk of the supreme court no later than the Friday
43 immediately preceding the week in which the argument is to be held.
44

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Introduction

The Iowa Supreme Court adopted Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules for Expanded Media Coverage (EMC) in 1979. The rules were updated in 2006 and 2009 to include news media coverage of the appellate courts. In the decades since the rules for expanded media coverage were approved, the courts and the news media have collaborated to provide audio and visual news media coverage of thousands of judicial proceedings. The technology used by the news media covering the courts in 2013 is significantly different from the cameras and recorders the news media used to cover trials in 1979. In today's courtrooms, for example, judges must decide whether to allow members of the news media to use laptops for blogging and smart phones for tweeting. The current rules do not address several technologies the news media uses today.

Kathleen Richardson, executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council (FOI), wrote a letter to the Iowa Supreme Court, dated August 8, 2012, requesting the court to "open a discussion into whether Iowa Court Rules Chapter 25 should be updated to better reflect new technology and newsgathering practices." Ms. Richardson wrote that there had not been any serious problems motivating her letter but pointed to several issues, including: blogging live chats and tweeting from the courtroom; still cameras that shoot HD video; photos from cell phone cameras or other electronic devices such as tablets; live streaming of court proceedings to the Internet; the current limits on the number of devices allowed in the courtroom; and the definition of who qualifies as a member of the "news media" for purposes of expanded media coverage.

In response to the letter, the supreme court created the Committee on Expanded Media Coverage (committee) to review Chapter 25 and propose changes. Judicial branch staff worked with the Iowa Freedom of Information Council to identify people from the media and the courts to serve on the committee. The committee membership was balanced by gender and geography and included a district judge, district associate judge, district court administrator, a county attorney, a public defender, a private practice attorney, and members of the news media representing newspapers, television, radio, photographers, multimedia editors, editors, regional media coordinators, and a blogger. Iowa Supreme Court Justice Bruce Zager chaired the committee.¹

The committee surveyed each of the 13 regional media coordinators and the appellate court media coordinator to identify areas where the current court rules are deficient. Media coordinators are the liaison between the news media and the court. They are responsible for filing the expanded media coverage notice of request and for coordinating pooling. Pooling is the sharing of video and audio recordings and photographs when a limited number of news media are allowed into the courtroom. Additionally, after the first committee meeting, the committee surveyed the media coordinators a second time

¹ See appendix 1, Order appointing EMC Committee members.

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and Iowa's eight district court administrators with specific questions raised in the meeting.

The committee met in Des Moines February 6, 2013, to review the media coordinator survey, identify the gaps in the existing rules, and learn about new technology and how it is being used by members of the news media. During the meeting, the district judge, district associate judge, newspaper reporter, photographer, television reporter, and media coordinator each explained their role in the expanded media coverage process and their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the current rules. The committee then listened to presentations from members of the news media who are using new technologies such as smart phones to tweet and laptops to blog from trials, and digital cameras for live streaming. The committee also reviewed expanded media rules from other states that allowed cameras in the courtroom. Materials used by the committee and minutes of the first meeting were posted on the judicial branch website.²

The committee identified three sections of the rules that do not address the new technology and newsgathering techniques used by the news media:

- **Definitional issues (Rule 25.1):**
 - Review definition of expanded media coverage
 - Add a definition for "news media"
- **Procedural aspects (Rule 25.3):**
 - Timelines for EMC filings for all court procedures except initial appearances in criminal cases
 - Timelines for EMC filings for initial appearances in criminal cases
 - Review requirements for filing (notice)
- **Technical/devices (Rule 25.4):**
 - Add a definition of electronic devices not covered in current court rules
 - Review limits on the number and types of electronic devices allowed in courtroom

²

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- Review requirements for members of the news media using electronic devices in the courtroom

One subcommittee was formed for each of the three sections to recommend changes to the full committee. The full committee met in Des Moines a second time, August 14, 2013, to review the reports from the subcommittees and to finalize the recommendations to present to the supreme court. The supreme court reviewed the recommendations August 27, 2013.

Proposed changes to Chapter 25

The proposed amendments provide a more consistent use of expanded media coverage statewide while continuing to allow for judicial discretion in individual cases. The committee crafted the amended rules to allow transparency of the legal process while not disrupting court proceedings or interfering with individual rights. The committee chose not to rewrite the entire chapter, but to focus in on the specific areas in need of updating as identified by representatives of the courts and members of the news media. The proposed definition of “electronic devices,” for example, is broad to allow for the introduction of future technology without requiring continual rule updates. The phrase “live electronic reporting” covers tweeting, blogging, and future methods of real time electronic reporting by text. It does not include photography or video. The definition of “Expanded News Media Coverage” now includes broadcasting, recording, photographing, and live electronic reporting. A new definition, “News Media,” is very broad, but requires everyone who successfully applies for expanded news media coverage to comply with all court rules. This will allow the judicial officer better control of the courtroom when there are several members of the news media covering a case.

The committee had lengthy discussions on whether to allow cameras in the courtroom for initial appearances in criminal cases. Because the current rules do not differentiate between types of court procedures, initial appearances are handled differently in different parts of the state. Judicial officers are forced to waive advance notice requirements because there is typically very little time between an arrest and the initial appearance. Currently, some judicial officers allow cameras in the courtroom for initial appearances in criminal cases as a matter of practice; others strictly prohibit cameras; and some counties use close circuit cameras to connect the jail to courtroom and then make the resulting video available to the news media. Additionally, some courts will only accept hand delivered paper copies of an EMC request immediately prior to the initial appearance, while other courts will accept facsimile copies. In both situations, the 14-day advance notification is waived. To address both concerns, the committee proposed allowing the EMC request to be made either in writing or orally to the magistrate or judge presiding over an initial appearance, subject to an oral objection by the prosecutor, defendant, or defendant's counsel.

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The implementation of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) in nearly half the counties in the state creates more inconsistencies. In counties with EDMS, the media coordinator must electronically file an EMC request and all parties in the case are immediately notified electronically. In counties without electronic filing, the media coordinator must mail or hand-deliver the EMC request to all parties. To prepare for the statewide use of EDMS and provide consistency during the implementation, the committee proposed allowing notice to be filed electronically or by paper copy. This will allow the media coordinator to mail, hand deliver, e-mail, fax, or, with EDMS, electronically file the notice with all parties, the judge expected to preside at the proceedings, and the appropriate clerk of district court and court administrator. With the ability to file electronically, the proposed rules shorten the time of notice from 14 days to seven days for all proceedings except initial appearances in criminal cases.

Finally, due to the number of different electronic devices the media uses today, the committee proposes expanding the number of people allowed into the courtroom to record video and audio and to photograph. The current rules allow two still cameras, two video cameras and an audio recorder. The newspaper reporter presenting to the committee explained he is expected to write a story, tweet events in real time, photograph and shoot video, and then immediately post all his coverage to the website. To address this issue while limiting distractions and disruptions, the amended rules does not limit the number of any particular electronic device, but allows for not more than five total members of the news media using still cameras, television cameras, audio recorders, and electronic devices, or any combination of the four for photography or video and audio recording. This amendment will give members of the news media flexibility and the judicial officer the ability to control the courtroom by designating where the news media is located in the courtroom and what can be recorded. Members of the news media using electrical devices for live electronic reporting are also required to file an EMC request.

These proposed changes to Chapter 25 apply only to members of the news media. This chapter does not prohibit or restrict the use of electronic devices by jurors or members of the public as long as the electronic devices are not used for video recording, audio recording, photography, broadcasting, or for live electronic reporting.

The supreme court approved the amended Chapter 25 as attached³ for public comment with a special emphasis on sections 25.3(2) and 25.3(3)(a) concerning initial appearances in criminal cases. The Chapter 25 forms are not included with this final report. The forms will be modified to correspond to the amended rules as approved by the supreme court.

³ Iowa Court Rules Chapter 25.

In the Supreme Court of Iowa

FILED
DEC 07 2012
CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of Appointments)
to the Committee on) Order
Expanded Media Coverage)
)**

The Iowa Supreme Court adopted Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules for expanded media coverage in 1979. The rules were updated in the 1990s to expand the media coverage of the appellate courts. In the decades since the rules for expanded media coverage were approved, the courts and the media have collaborated to provide audio and visual media coverage to the public of thousands of judicial proceedings. Today, judges and court staff are faced with bloggers, smart phones, and twitter, among other forms of technology that are not specifically addressed in current rules.

The Iowa Supreme Court establishes a Committee on Expanded Media Coverage to review and propose changes to Chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules.

The supreme court appoints the following persons to this committee:

- Honorable Bruce Zager, Supreme Court Justice, Waterloo, Chair
- Honorable Robert Hanson, District Judge, Des Moines
- Honorable Christine Dalton, District Associate Judge, Cedar Rapids
- Kent Wirth, District Court Administrator, Council Bluffs
- Jennifer Miller, Marshall County Attorney, Marshalltown
- Gregg Jones, Woodbury County Public Defender, Sioux City
- Elaine Fehseke Gray, Attorney, Burlington
- O. Kay Henderson, Radio Iowa, Des Moines
- Peggy Senzarino, Mason City Globe Gazette, Mason City
- Amanda Lewis, KCCI-TV News, Des Moines
- Zack Kucharski, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids
- Tim Hynds, Sioux City Journal, Sioux City
- Nancy Raffensperger Newhoff, Waterloo Courier, Waterloo
- Kathy Richardson, Iowa Freedom of Information Council, Des Moines
- Steve Davis, Court Liaison, Des Moines

Members may be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable travel expenses according to Iowa Court Rules 22.16 through 22.21.

The committee shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the court by June 30, 2013.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2012.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice