FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 23, 2020

In order to assist in maintaining press and general public access to the United States District Courts and United States Bankruptcy Courts during times of closures and other restrictions on physical access to court facilities prompted by Federal and State responses to the COVID-19 crisis, CourtCall in conjunction with District Courts and Bankruptcy Courts that CourtCall serves, will provide up to three members of the press and up to three members of the public free telephonic access to each hearing (subject always to any applicable and authorized restrictions that a Judge may require). The U.S. District Courts and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts that CourtCall serves are listed on its website at <u>www.courtcall.com</u> Members of the press or the public must identify themselves as such when scheduling with CourtCall and follow all other procedures of CourtCall and the courts.

This accommodation shall remain in place for hearings from March 23, 2020 through and including April **30**, 2020. CourtCall along with those courts it serves, will review these temporary measures during this period. CourtCall reserves the right to require that members of the press use pool protocols when interest in any particular hearing exceeds 3 members of the press.

Attorneys and pro se litigants are still to follow the procedures found on the website of each applicable court.

This free access is provided with the recognition that maintaining access may be challenging for certain reporters. CourtCall wishes to remind news outlets that can afford to pay for remote appearances to please continue to do so in order to assist in the provision of these accommodations. This access is provided by CourtCall as a public service at no cost to taxpayers.

Press members who wish to appear via CourtCall may email <u>pressaccess@courtcall.com</u> to schedule or call 888-882-6878.

Contacts:

Federal Courts

For questions about the federal courts, please contact your local federal court directly by visiting <u>www.usocurts.gov</u> and using the <u>Federal Court Finder</u> or by calling the Public Affairs Office at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) at (202) 502-2600 with questions about AO support and information.

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