



The Hon. Susan C. Stallings
Oklahoma County District Judge
Oklahoma County Courthouse
321 Park Ave., Room 800
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Judge Stallings,

I write today on behalf of the members of the [Radio Television Digital News Association](#), the world's largest professional association representing broadcast, cable and digital journalists throughout Oklahoma and the rest of the United States.

It has come to our attention that you have declined a request for video coverage in the upcoming trial in the case of *Pipes and Sluski vs. Johnson & Johnson, et al.*

I respectfully request, judge, that you reconsider and allow such coverage. As this case is the first cosmetic talc case to go to trial in Oklahoma, and whereas other, similar lawsuits have been filed across the country, there is no question in my view that this case is newsworthy and would be of great benefit not only to our members, but, more important, to the public.

There is also no question in my mind that allowing video coverage of trials is in the public's, and even the litigants', best interest. As Kathleen Kirby – RTDNA's counsel and senior partner at the Wiley Rein law firm in Washington, D.C. – puts it:

A courtroom is a public forum where citizens have the right to be present, and where their presence historically has been thought to enhance the integrity and quality of what takes place. Audiovisual coverage, which allows for direct observation of the demeanor, tone, credibility, contentiousness, and perhaps even the competency and veracity of the participants, is the best means through which to advance the public's understanding of how justice is carried out.

Thank you, Your Honor, for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,