# DISTRICT COURT, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF COLORADO

1437 Bannock Street Denver, CO 80202

#### **Petitioners:**

NORMA ANDERSON, MICHELLE PRIOLA, CLAUDINE CMARADA, KRISTA KAFER, KATHI WRIGHT, and CHRISTOPHER CASTILIAN

Division: 209

Δ COURT USE ONLY Δ

Case No.: 2023CV32577

v.

### **Respondents:**

JENA GRISWOLD, in her official capacity as Colorado Secretary of State, and DONALD J. TRUMP

and

#### **Intervenor:**

COLORADO REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

# ORDER GRANTING AND DENYING REQUESTS FOR EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE

**THIS MATTER** comes before the Court on Requests for Expanded Media Coverage, filed by Lawfare, Courthouse News Service ("Courthouse News"), American Center for Law & Justice ("ACLJ"), The Denver Post, and Associated Press ("AP"). The Court, having reviewed the Requests and otherwise being sufficiently advised, hereby FINDS and ORDERS as follows:

## STANDARDS FOR AUTHORIZING COVERAGE

Pursuant to Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Court Rules, the Court may authorize expanded media coverage of Court proceedings subject to certain guidelines.

Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(1)(E) defines "media" as "any news gathering or reporting agency and the individual persons involved, and includes newspapers, radio, television, radio and television networks, news services, magazines, trade papers, in-house publications, professional journals, or any other news reporting or news gathering agency whose function it is to inform the public or some segment thereof."

Pursuant to Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(2) of the Colorado Court Rules,

In determining whether expanded media coverage should be permitted, a judge shall consider the following factors:

- (A) Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial;
- (B) Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the court; and
- (C) Whether expanded media coverage would create adverse effects which would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Lawfare, Courthouse News, The Denver Post, and AP request expanded media coverage of the Status Conference in this case scheduled for September 22, 2023. Lawfare, Courthouse News, The Denver Post, and AP's request is limited to recording the Webex proceedings. The Court finds expanded media coverage is appropriate for Lawfare, Courthouse News, The Denver Post, and AP in this case, so long as they strictly adhere to all the parameters outlined in Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Court Rules. The Court expects full compliance with all applicable restrictions and notes this Order authorizes expanded media coverage **only** of the Status Conference scheduled for September 22, 2023 in this case.

In accordance with Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(4),

A judge may restrict or limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors. A judge may terminate or suspend expanded media coverage at any time upon making findings of fact that: (1) rules established under this Rule or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated; or (2) substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.

Therefore, the Court may further restrict and/or revoke the expanded media coverage authorized in this case.

ACLJ also requests expanded media coverage of the Status Conference in this case scheduled for September 22, 2023. However, ACLJ does not appear to be "media" as defined by Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(1)(E) of the Colorado Court Rules. This means they are ineligible for a grant of expanded media coverage in this matter.

Accordingly, the Court hereby **GRANTS** Lawfare, Courthouse News, The Denver Post, and AP's Requests for Expanded Media Coverage of the Status Conference scheduled for September 22, 2023 in this case, subject to the terms and conditions of Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Court Rules and this Order. The Court also **DENIES** ACLJ's Request for Expanded Media Coverage for the reasons stated above. The Court will be granting no further requests for expanded media coverage for the September 22, 2023 Status Conference as it is now less than 24 hours before the hearing.

DATED: September 21, 2023.

BY THE COURT:

Sarah B. Wallace District Court Judge

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