

11/2006—Sent letter requesting early audio release of Parents Involved v. Seattle School District No. 1 and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education (affirmative action). Court agreed.

11/2006—Requested early audio release of oral arguments in Parents Involved v. Seattle School District No. 1 and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education (Affirmative action) Court agreed. Press Release

1/2007—Sent letter requesting early audio release of Davenport v. Washington Education Association and Washington v. Washington Education Association (Union dues). Denied.

1/2007—Introduction of the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2007 in the 110th Congress, co-sponsored by Sens. Grassley (R-IA), Leahy (D-VT) and Schumer (D-NY).

1/2007—Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) introduces cameras in the Supreme Court legislation. Watch

2/2007—Sent letter requesting early audio release of Rita v. United States and Claiborne v. United States (Federal sentencing guidelines). Denied

2/2007—Rep. Ted Poe (D-TX/2nd), a former judge, delivers a floor speech about opening the court to cameras. Watch

2/2007—Sens. Specter and Cornyn discuss cameras in the courts with Justice Anthony Kennedy during Judiciary Committee hearing. Sen. Specter questions Justice Kennedy directly. Watch/Sen. Cornyn remarks on his experience with cameras. Watch/Watch Hearing

3/2007—Justices Kennedy and Thomas comment on cameras in the court before a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the FY08 Supreme Court budget. Watch Justice Kennedy/Watch Justice Thomas

3/2007—Sent letter requesting early audio release of FEC v. Wisconsin Right to Life and McCain v. Wisconsin Right to Life (Campaign Finance). Denied.

3/7/2007—Sent letter requesting camera coverage of 3rd circuit CBS vs. FCC hearing on Television Indecency Standards. Received permission for audio only.

8/16/2007—Aired camera footage of Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals 8/15/07 oral argument in two cases on the government's warrantless wiretapping program. Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, Inc. v. Bush Hepting v. AT&T

9/11/2007—Aired same-day audio of CBS vs. FCC hearing on Television Indecency Standards.

9/27/2007—C-SPAN President Susan Swain testifies before House Judiciary Committee on H.R. 2128, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2007. Watch/Read Testimony

9/2007—Sent letter requesting early audio release of Medellin v. Texas (Presidential Powers) and Stoneridge Investment v. Scientific-Atlanta (Securities Fraud). Denied.

10/2007—Sent letter requesting early audio release of Boumediene v. Bush & Al Odah v. U.S. (Guantanamo Detainees) Court Agreed. Press Release

11/16/2007—9th Circuit Court of Appeals opinion in Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation v. Bush cites C-SPAN'S request to record oral argument and date footage was televised. See footnote 5, page 14969.

12/06/2007—Senate Judiciary Committee votes in favor of sending S. 344 to the full Senate for a vote. The bill would require television coverage of the Supreme Court's open sessions unless a majority of justices vote to block cameras for a particular case.

1/2008—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Baze v. Rees (Lethal Injection). Court agreed. Press Release

1/02/2008—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Crawford v. Marion County (Voting Rights). Denied.

1/16/2008—NY Times Editorial on Cameras in the Supreme Court.

3/2008—Request denied for same-day audio release of oral argument in United States v. Ressaam ("Millennium Bomber" case).

3/2008—Request granted for same-day audio release of oral argument in District of Columbia v. Heller (DC Gun Law). Press Release

3/6/2008—The Senate Judiciary Committee passes the "Sunshine in the Courtroom Act" which allows cameras in federal court rooms with a vote of 10-8 with one member abstaining. The bill is referred to the full senate for consideration. Press Release

3/21/2008—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle Editorial on allowing cameras in the Supreme Court.

4/14/08—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Kennedy v. Louisiana (Death Penalty for Rape) denied.

9/26/2008—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Altria Group, Inc. v. Good (Marketing of "Light" Cigarettes) and Winter v. Natural Resources denied. Request Letter

10/15/2008—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in FCC v. Fox Television Stations (Television Indecency Standards) denied. Request Letter Story

11/12/2008—Request for audio release of oral argument in Pleasant Grove City v. Summum (Free Speech) denied.

12/3/2008—Request for audio release of oral argument in Phillip Morris USA Inc. v. Williams (Supreme Court-State Court authority) denied.

12/10/2008—Request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Ashcroft v. Iqbal (Can President's Cabinet be sued for constitutional violations by subordinates) denied.

3/3/2009—Request for audio release of oral argument in Caperton v. A.T. Massey (Should elected state judges recuse themselves) denied.

3/27/2009—Joint request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder 4-291 granted. Request Letter Article

7/2009—Judge Sotomayor questioned about cameras in the court during her confirmation hearings. Sen. Specter on Opinion Poll Sen. Specter on Cameras in the Court Sen. Kohl on Cameras in the Court

7/2009—British Supreme Court decides to televise events from inside the court's three chambers. Article

8/7/2009—Boston Herald op-ed by Wayne Woodlief: "Televised justice would be for all." Article

9/9/2009—Request for Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (Campaign Finance). Agreed.

11/2009—Requests for audio releases of oral arguments in Jones v. Harris Associates (Investment fund fees), Graham v. Florida (life sentence for minor), and Sullivan v. Florida (life sentence for minor). Denied.

2/16/10—Request for request for same-day audio release of oral argument in Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project. Denied.

2/26/10—C-SPAN requests for same-day audio release of oral arguments in Skilling v. United States and McDonald v. City of Chicago on Tuesday, March 2nd—denied.

4/7/10—C-SPAN requests same-day audio release of oral argument in Christian Legal Society Chapter v. Martinez on April 19. Denied.

4/15/10—During hearing of House Appropriations-Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Services, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer comments on cameras in the court. Click here to watch

4/29/10—C-SPAN statement on today's Senate Judiciary Committee passage of two bills concerning TV cameras in the Supreme Court. Press Release

5/10/10—Pres. Obama nominates U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan. She gave remarks on cameras in the court during a Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from July, 23, 2009. Click here to watch

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess, under the previous order, until 2:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator NELSON of Florida be recognized for up to 11 minutes as in morning business and Senator DEMINT be recognized for up to 10 minutes; that during this time that has been requested, there be no amendments or motions in order, and that upon use or yielding back of the time, I be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

THE GULF COAST DISASTER

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, in my at least weekly report to the Senate about what is happening down on the Gulf Coast, I am sad to report to you that as of this moment, one of the remote operating vehicles has bumped into that top hat process that was funneling the oil off of the big structure, the blowout preventer from the pipe, the riser pipe, with the result that all of that oil now is not being siphoned off. The estimates now are upwards and probably pretty close to 60,000 barrels a day of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Remember, when it started off, oh, it was only 1,000 barrels a day. Then it was only 5,000 barrels a day. Then it was maybe 12,000 barrels a day but max 20,000 barrels a day. Senator BOXER and I were able to get the streaming video out so the scientists could look and they could make their estimates, their calculations. Anyway, it has gone on and on. It is now up to 60,000 barrels of oil a day.

The oil industry had said they had started siphoning off—first it was 10,000, then it was 15,000. They were trying to get it up to 25,000. Now, since this accident, that is being shut down—let's hope just very temporarily, but we are now back to the point that most of the oil is gushing back into the gulf. We know the result.

If this continues for another 2 months, to the end of the summer, it is going to fill up the gulf with oil and it is going to do just what it is doing now. When the wind comes this way, it brings the oil from the South to the North; it brings it in onshore. The oil