



Administrative Office of the Courts

MEDIA ADVISORY

Because of courtroom space constraints, a pool arrangement will be required for video and still photography coverage of the plea hearing scheduled March 8 for the defendant in *State v. David Halls*, D-101-CR-2023-00041. The video pool and other news organizations may live stream and broadcast the proceeding. The court will not separately provide a live stream of the proceeding, which will be conducted in person at the First Judicial District courthouse in Santa Fe, NM.

One (1) video camera and two still photographers will be permitted in the courtroom. The still camera pool will consist of a wire pool photographer, which will serve wire services and photo agencies, and a newspaper pool photographer to serve all other media organizations. Necessary arrangements for distribution of pool video and photographs shall be the sole responsibility of the press and must be in place prior to the start of the March 8 proceeding.

Any media organization wishing to be considered as the pool video provider and still photography pool providers should email the communications staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts by close of business on Thursday, Feb. 9. Provide the name of your organization and a contact person, along with a telephone number and email address.

Send the note about pooling interest to Barry Massey (bmassey@nmcourts.gov) and Beth Wojahn (bwojahn@nmcourts.gov), who will serve as the media contacts for district court proceedings for the criminal cases involving the 'Rust' movie set shooting.

After compiling a list of the organizations willing to serve as the pool, the AOC communications staff will send a notice to those organizations, which collaboratively will select the outlet(s) that will best serve their collective interests by acting as the pool. The pool will consult with the AOC communications staff concerning camera placement and technical arrangements, such as audio, cabling and placement of any needed microphones in the courtroom.

Please be advised that a similar pooling arrangement will be necessary for the preliminary hearings for the defendants in *State v. Alexander Baldwin* and *State v. Hannah Gutierrez*. Those proceedings have not been scheduled, but will be conducted in person at the courthouse in Santa Fe.

In the near future, we will issue a more comprehensive media guide that covers press access to seats in the courtroom, working space inside the courthouse for press unable to sit in the courtroom, courthouse security, and restrictions that apply inside and outside of the courthouse.

At the current time, New Mexico Courts continue to operate with COVID-19 health restrictions, including a requirement for all persons inside a courtroom to wear masks and maintain three-foot physical distancing. The physical distancing restricts available seating inside the courtroom and other rooms in the courthouse.

The three defendants are scheduled for their first appearances on Feb. 24. The proceedings will be conducted remotely online and live streamed to the [NM Courts YouTube channel](#). We will provide a specific link for the hearings at a later date. The judge will conduct the hearings with the Google Meet platform but no news media will be permitted to join the Google Meet. Press may record and broadcast the proceeding through the YouTube feed.

As a reminder, documents filed in the criminal cases – *State v. Alexander Baldwin*, *State v. Hannah Gutierrez* and *State v. David Halls* – are available online at the website of the [First Judicial District Court](#) and on the [News webpage of the NM Courts website](#). Click the “High Profile Cases” navigation tab on the News webpage. You can view docket sheets of the cases, which will list any scheduled hearings, on the Judiciary’s [Case Lookup](#).