

Opening the Jailhouse Courtroom to the Public: Update

On November 19, 2005 students from the course were permitted to observe hearings at the courtroom inside the Atlanta City Jail. On November 22, 2005 Jeanette Wasdin was given a copy of the following memo to jail officials stating that “citizens or students who request to observe proceedings” will be allowed to attend court hearings at the jail. The date on the memo is the date that a reporter from the Atlanta Journal Constitution called the director of the city jail while writing the story about Wasdin’s effort to observe the jailhouse courtroom.



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SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
THOMAS J. POCOCK
CHIEF

MEMORANDUM

TO: Major E. Pitts ✓
Major K. Stevens ✓
Captain J. Jackson ✓
Captain C. Seals
Captain M. Smith
Captain Robinson ✓

FROM: Assistant Chief D. Jones *DH*

DATE: November 3, 2005

SUBJECT: Week End Court

Until further notice, we will temporarily allow visitors to attend week end court (ACDC courtroom) under the following circumstances.

1. They are attorneys representing clients.
2. They are family members of defendants.
3. They are citizens or students who request to observe proceedings.

Any one attending must have proper ID and submit to pat searches by same gender officer. Also, they must place bulk property in lockers (except briefcases). The on duty watch commander must ensure the number attending is reasonable and manageable.

If there are any uncertainties pertaining to this directive contact your chain of command.

Acknowledge

Date