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**Charlotte Observer, The (NC)**

August 26, 1987  
Edition: FIVE  
Section: METRO  
Page: 2E

Topics:  
Index Terms:  
SC COURT DEMONSTRATION TELEVISION

**S.C. JUSTICES GET THE PICTURE HIGH COURT STUDIES CAMERAS AT TRIALS**  
Author: Associated Press

Dateline: COLUMBIA

Article Text:

S. C. Supreme Court justices on Tuesday experienced what it would be like to have cameras in state courtrooms.

Chief Justice Julius B. Nass said after a mock trial that the justices will meet in 10 days to discuss whether cameras, for television newscasts and newspaper photographs, should be allowed inside courtrooms.

South Carolina is one of only six states that prohibits cameras and tape recorders in the courtroom. The mock trial Tuesday also demonstrated the use of tape recorders by print and radio reporters.

It is a basic right of the public to know what goes on in the judicial system," said Dixon Lovvorn, general manager of WIS-TV (channel 10) in Columbia. With modern technology, in which cameras can operate with available light and little noise, there's no reason these tools can't be taken into the courtroom.

Nass, as chief administrator of the state's court system, will decide whether the electronic devices will be allowed.

The S. C. Broadcasters Association and the S. C. Press Association cosponsored the project to show that cameras could be used in courtrooms without detracting from dignity and decorum.

I didn't pay any attention (to the cameras), said 5th Circuit Solicitor Jim Anders, who played the prosecutor in the mock trial.

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"I was more aware of the folks behind me," Anders said, referring to the five Supreme Court justices, circuit judges and state appeals judges in the audience

Circuit Judge Ralph King Anderson presided over the mock trial for driving under the influence

Lovvorn said the television and still cameras used in the mock trial, which were hidden in a wooden enclosure beside the jury box, couldn't be heard in the Richland County courtroom.

Jack Swerling, a Columbia lawyer who played the defense attorney, said the cameras didn't interfere with the court proceeding

If Ness agrees to the limited use of cameras and recorders, the broadcast and newspaper associations will propose guidelines for a yearlong experiment

Caption:  
AP: S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Julius "Bubba" Ness (left) discusses courtroom cameras with Scott Parks, news director of WIS (channel 10, Columbia), who coordinated a mock trial demonstration Tuesday.  
PHOTO

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