

Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr.
Chief Justice of the United States
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street NE
Washington, DC 20543

March 15, 2022

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

We, the undersigned members of the Supreme Court Bar, write to urge the Supreme Court to make permanent its policy of livestreaming oral argument audio to the public and to continue to post the argument audio files on SupremeCourt.gov on the afternoon following a Court session.

Nearly two years ago, the Court changed its broadcast policy from Friday audio releases to livestreaming plus same-day online posting. Since then, scores of law professors have used the streams as teaching tools of appellate advocacy. Hundreds of media outlets have linked to them so listeners and viewers could hear directly from the justices, unfiltered and in real time, about the issues the Court was grappling with. And tens of thousands of Americans have come to understand the seriousness and the care with which you and your colleagues treat each case and each advocate who comes before the Court.

There have seemed to be almost no technological difficulties or issues with the media pools from the livestreaming, and in our minds, it hasn't been disadvantageous that arguments now run a little longer on average than in years past. Critically, decorum has been maintained throughout.

Among the signatories below, some believe that if the practice of justices reading summaries of their opinions from the bench returns, those exercises should be livestreamed, as well. And some believe that live audio should one day give way to live video. But neither of these issues appears to be before the Court at the moment.

Right now, we are focused on audio livestreaming: a policy we wish would continue for as long as you are Chief Justice, and beyond. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely*,

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