

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

IN RE:

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SEALING OF BENCH CONFERENCES

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MISC. NO. 00-308


STANDING ORDER 2015-04

In response to reports of federal inmates being coerced by other federal inmates into providing a transcript from their criminal proceedings, the Court adopted Standing Order 2013-03 to handle transcript requests from guilty pleas and sentencings. The Court finds that a protective policy is also needed to protect the confidentiality of discussions held during bench conferences in criminal proceedings. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that in all criminal proceedings, the docket entry of the Clerk's minute entry shall not reflect the sealing of bench conferences if the presiding judge states any bench conference is under seal. No separate sealing order shall be needed, provided the sealing and time of the sealed bench conference are noted in the Clerk's criminal minutes, which are already not made part of the public court record; and it is further

ORDERED that nothing contained in this Order shall supersede or modify the procedure already provided for in Standing Order 2013-03.

April 1, 2015
Date


Catherine C. Blake, Chief Judge
United States District Court