

Courtroom Decorum

When appearing in this court, unless excused by the court, all counsel (including all persons at the counsel table) and/or pro se party(ies) shall:

1. Stand as court is opened, recessed or adjourned.
2. Stand when the jury enters or retires from the courtroom.
3. Stand when addressing, or being addressed by the court.
4. Stand at the lectern while making opening statements or closing arguments.
5. Stand at the lectern while examining any witness; except that counsel may approach the clerk's desk or the witness for purposes of handling or tendering exhibits. Ask the court for permission to approach the witness.
6. Address all remarks to the court, not to opposing counsel.
7. Avoid disparaging personal remarks or acrimony toward opposing counsel and remain wholly detached from any ill feeling between the litigants or witnesses.
8. Refer to all persons, including witnesses, other counsel, and the parties by their surnames, and not by their first or given names.
9. Examine or cross-examine each witness without any questioning by co-counsel. The attorney stating the objections, if any, during direct examination shall be the attorney recognized for cross-examination.
10. Request permission before approaching the bench. Any documents counsel wishes to have the court examine should be handed to the clerk.
11. Not tender to a witness any paper or exhibit previously marked for identification. Any exhibit offered in evidence should, at the time of such offer, be handed to opposing counsel.
12. State only the legal grounds for any objection within the hearing of the jury and withhold all further comment or argument unless elaboration is requested by the court.

13. Not repeat or echo the answer given by the witness.
14. Make all offers of or requests for, a stipulation privately, not within the hearing of the jury.
15. Not express, in opening or in closing argument, personal knowledge or opinion concerning any matter in issue, nor read or purport to read from deposition or trial transcripts, nor suggest to the jury, directly or indirectly, that it may or should request transcripts or the reading of any testimony by the reporter.
16. Admonish all persons at counsel table that gestures, facial expression, audible comments, or the like, as manifestation of approval or disapproval during the testimony of witnesses, or at any other time, are absolutely prohibited.
17. Avoid making personal remarks about counsel. The personal history or peculiarities of counsel on opposing sides should not be alluded to. Personal colloquies between counsel which cause delay or promote confusion should be avoided.
18. Treat adverse witnesses and parties with fairness and consideration. No abusive language or offensive personal references shall be indulged.
19. Conduct himself or herself before the court and with other lawyers with candor and fairness. The contents of a paper, the testimony of a witness, the language or argument of opposing counsel, or the language of a decision or other authority cited should not knowingly be misinterpreted. Evidence known to be misinterpreted should not be offered. In an argument addressed to the court, remarks or statements should not be interjected to influence the jury or spectators.
20. Not make suggestions looking to the comfort or convenience of jurors within the jury's hearing. Before and during trial, a lawyer should attempt to avoid communicating with jurors, even as to matters foreign to the cause.
21. Promote respect for the court and its judgments by counsel by yielding gracefully to the rulings of the court. Remarks to the contrary should be avoided, in court and out. Easy and ample means to correct errors are afforded by orderly procedure.