

JUDGE JESSICA RECKSIEDLER'S COURTROOM DECORUM POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to state certain basic principles concerning courtroom behavior and decorum. When appearing in this Court, unless excused by the presiding Judge, all counsel (including all persons at counsel table) shall abide by the following:

1. Stand when Court is opened, recessed or adjourned. Stand when addressing, or being addressed by the Court. Stand when addressing a witness or juror. Stand when the jury enters or retires from the courtroom. Stand when making opening statements, closing arguments or examining witnesses. Do not approach either the jury or the witness without the Court's permission. Remain at the lectern unless using exhibits or charts when examining the witness or potential jurors. All feet are to remain on the floor when addressing the court, witnesses, or potential jurors.
2. Address all remarks to the Court, not opposing counsel or the opposing party.
3. Maintain composure and proper tone of voice throughout the proceedings. Attorneys should not raise their voice toward court, counsel, witnesses or jurors.
4. Avoid disparaging personal remarks or acrimony toward opposing counsel and remain wholly detached from any ill feeling between the litigants or witnesses.
5. Refer to all persons, including witnesses, other counsel and the parties by their surnames and not by their first or given names unless the permission of the Court is sought in advance.
6. Only one attorney for each party shall examine, or cross examine each witness. The attorney stating objections, if any, during direct examination, shall be the attorney recognized for cross examination.
7. Counsel should request permission before approaching the bench. Any documents counsel wishes to have the Court examine should be handled to the clerk. Any paper or exhibit not previously marked for identification should first be handed to the clerk to be marked before it is tendered to a witness for his/her examination; and any exhibit offered in evidence should, at the time of such offer, be handed to opposing counsel.
8. No exhibit, whether marked for identification or not, shall be held in any matter, or placed in any position in the courtroom, that would allow the jury to see the exhibit unless it has been admitted into evidence and permission to publish the exhibit to the jury has been obtained from the Court.
9. In making objections counsel should state only the legal grounds for the objection and shall withhold all further comment or argument unless elaboration is requested by the Court. If elaboration is requested, each party will have opportunity to provide argument. The party making the objection shall provide argument first, then the opposing party will have the opportunity to respond and the court will rule.
10. When referencing case law to court and counsel, attorneys are required to provide the full cite of the case and have a copy for court and counsel.
11. In examining a witness, counsel shall not repeat or echo the answer given by the witness.
12. Offers of, or request for, a stipulation should be made privately, not within the hearing of the jury.

13. In opening statements and in arguments to the jury, counsel shall not express personal knowledge or opinion concerning any matter in issue.
14. Counsel shall admonish all persons at counsel table that gestures, facial expressions, audible comments, or the like, as manifestations of approval or disapproval during the testimony of witnesses, or at any other time, are absolutely prohibited.
15. Counsel shall refrain from attempting to make re-argument after the Judge has ruled.
16. Counsel shall complete resolution negotiations and advise clients of their settlement options in advance of court hearings.
17. No tobacco use in any form is permitted. No bottles, beverages containers, papers cups or edibles are allowed in the courtroom, except as permitted by the Court. No gum chewing is permitted.
18. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or in a vibrate mode. Computer should be used with audio off.