
RULES OF ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM

during trial before The Honorable Debra H. Gibbs

The Court respectfully requests that the parties follow and abide by the Court's rules of etiquette and decorum during trial. These rules shall govern any and all trial proceedings before
The Honorable Debra H. Gibbs.

The rules of etiquette and decorum are as follows:

1. Never lean against or across the rail of the jury box at any time when the jury is in the jury box.
2. Always stand when addressing the Court. Remain seated when the jury enters or leaves the courtroom. U.C.C.C.R. 3.02 and 3.08.
3. All comments, statements, remarks, etc., are to be addressed to the Court. There should be no cross-talking between opposing attorneys in the presence of the jury. U.C.C.C.R. 3.02.
4. Only one (1) attorney per side shall be "assigned" to a witness and that attorney will be responsible for both the examination of the witness and for making any objections during that witness' testimony.
5. It is not necessary to request permission to approach a witness; however, a reasonable distance shall be maintained between the interrogator and the witness, unless the use of a document or exhibit requires the interrogator and the witness be in close proximity.
6. Any request that a document be marked, that a witness is brought in, or any other request which requires the action of Court personnel and/or support staff, is to be addressed to the Judge and not directly to the court staff member, if the request is made at a time when the jury is in the courtroom. Attorneys should avoid giving direct instructions to court personnel in the presence of the jury, but rather are advised that those request be made to the Court.
7. The court may set a reasonable time limit for Voir Dire. Voir Dire is not to be used to make an opening statement or closing argument. The Court is of the opinion that Voir Dire is to be used to ask questions and not to make speeches or arguments. U.C.C.C.R 3.05
8. Speech making is to be avoided at the times that objections are made. For example, if a question is objectionable because it lacks relevance, then the objection should be simply stated "objection your Honor, irrelevant." While the Court recognizes at times speech making is desirable for strategic reasons; it is discouraged and, for the most part, will not be permitted.
9. Please remember to speak slowly, clearly and audibly. Remind your witnesses to do the same, when necessary, so the court reporter may make a complete and accurate record.
10. The Court may exercise its discretion pursuant to Rule 611 of the Rules of Evidence, and intervene sua sponte to deal with matters affecting the interrogation of witnesses and the presentation of evidence.
11. No phone usage in the courtroom by anyone who enters.
12. No food or drink allowed in the courtroom, unless authorized by the Court.