
**RE: RULES OF ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM DURING TRIAL BEFORE THE
HONORABLE ADRIENNE H. WOOTEN**

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 Adrienne H. Wooten. The rules of etiquette and decorum are as follows:

1. All objections to testimony must be made to the Court and not to the opposing attorney. The objection must be specific and not general. The attorneys will not be permitted to argue between themselves. After an objection is raised, counsel for the parties shall immediately approach the bench to provide the basis of the objection. Additionally, speech making should be avoided when making objections. For example, if a question is objectionable because it lacks relevance, then the objection should be stated thus, "objection, your Honor: irrelevant." While the Court recognizes speech making is desirable for strategic reasons, it is highly discouraged and will not be permitted.
2. So long as the jury is seated in the jury box, counselors shall never lean against nor across the rail of the jury box.
3. Counsel shall stand when (1) addressing the Court and (2) when the jury enters and/or leaves the courtroom.
4. All comments, statements, remarks, and the like shall be addressed to the Court. There shall be no cross-talking between opposing attorneys in the presence of the jury.
5. Only one (1) attorney per side shall be "assigned" to a witness, and that attorney shall be responsible for both the examination of the witness and for making any objections during that witnesses' testimony.
6. Counsel shall request permission from the Court to approach a witness. Counsel shall always maintain a reasonable distance between the examiner and the witness unless the use of a document or exhibit requires the examiner and the witness be in close proximity.
7. Any request that a document be marked, that a witness be brought into court, or any other request requiring the action of Court personnel and/or support staff, shall be addressed to the Judge and not directly to the Court's staff or any attorney while the jury is seated in the courtroom. In other words, the attorneys should make any

and all requests to the Court rather than directing or instructing the Court's staff or other attorneys to perform some act.

8. In the voir dire examination of jurors, the attorney will question the entire venire only on matters not inquired into by the Court. Individual jurors may be examined only when proper to inquire as to answers given or for other good cause allowed by the Court. No hypothetical questions requiring any juror to pledge a particular verdict will be asked. Attorneys will not offer an opinion on the law. The Court may set a reasonable time limit for voir dire. In other words, the Court is of the opinion that voir dire should be used to ask questions rather than speech making or advising potential jurors on the facts of the case or the law governing the same.
9. Please remember to speak clearly, slowly, and audibly so the court reporter may make a complete and accurate record. Please also remind all witnesses, as necessary, to do the same.
10. Pursuant to Rule 611 of the Mississippi Rules of Evidence, the Court may exercise its discretion and intervene *sua sponte* to deal with matters affecting the interrogation of witnesses and the presentation of evidence.