

Judge Walker's Courtroom Procedures

Rule #1 – Be courteous, respectful & professional

Rule #2 – See Rule #1

Professionalism

- * You are scheduled for a certain time. If you cannot be there, please call and notify the court.
- * Address all concerns to the judge in court, not opposing counsel.
- * Court staff are professionals. Please treat them accordingly.
- * Do not interrupt another counsel. Stand and wait until the court recognizes you.
- * Be aware that the microphones in the courtroom go into the judge's chambers.
- * Never make disparaging remarks about another lawyer or say counsel's position is ridiculous or stupid, etc.
- * Always talk with opposing counsel before the judge comes in, even if it's just to say hello. The court hopes you will narrow the issues prior to the judge taking the bench.
- * There is no motion to reconsider in Multnomah County (see Supp Local Rules 5.045). Make no comments after the court has ruled other than for clarification purposes.
- * Remember, every court appearance you make says something good or bad about you.

Be Prepared

- * Please try to consult with opposing counsel before court.
- * Fumbling through paperwork in your file and trying to explain why you're there is unprofessional.
- * Bring your calendar to court.
- * Make sure the court and opposing counsel have a copy of your motion, etc. Filing something is no guarantee it made it to the court file. Remember - "courtesy copy".
- * Cite only one or two cases that support your position in oral argument. String cites are useless. Think, if you could only rely on one case to support your position, which would it be?

- * Always state your name at the beginning of your presentation.
- * If you are not ready or prepared, everybody knows it. There was only one lawyer who could pull that off and he is now on the Bench.

Trial Day

- * If jury instructions are important to you, give them to the judge at the start of trial. Judges and their staff do not fill out your instructions for you or draft them for you.
- * You must discuss with plaintiff (state) or defendant how long their case will take. Otherwise you cannot reasonably schedule your witnesses.
- * Opening statement is what you expect the evidence to show. It is not to convince the judge or jury of your case. It is okay to say “we believe the evidence will show...” Do not say “Plaintiff is a liar.” A sustained objection in opening tells the jury you don’t know what you’re doing, and you do not want to start trial that way.
- * We generally start at 9:00, break at 10:30 for 15 minutes, break at 12:00 noon. Start back at 1:30, break at 3:15 for 15 minutes, and stop at 5:00.
- * No trials on Fridays.
- * Please be realistic with your days of trial at call. If you say two days, everyone’s life changes if it takes 3. The court’s schedule will have to be altered and jurors are very perturbed.
- * “Objection” is sufficient to put the court on notice that you have a concern. **DO NOT STATE WHY YOU ARE OBJECTING UNLESS THE COURT ASKS YOU. ARGUMENTATIVE OBJECTIONS IN FRONT OF THE JURY ARE IMPROPER.**
- * I will instruct the jury prior to closing that “if you remember the evidence differently than the lawyers, rely on your own memory.” Therefore, there should be no objections that “counsel is arguing evidence that is not before the jury.”
- * Your reputation as a lawyer is all you have to promote you in the profession. Guard it wisely.
- * If you had trouble understanding any of these, see Rule #1.