

**OREGON SUPREME COURT  
TOUR INFORMATION & COURTROOM ETIQUETTE**

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**TOUR INFORMATION:**

Due to the size and limitations of the Supreme Court Building, we have found the following guidelines and information to be helpful to groups that are preparing to visit.

Tour participants are asked to assemble in the hallway of the ground floor where a law clerk will meet them at the scheduled time. As part of the building tour, the law clerk will explain the outstanding features of the building and answer any questions the group may have. If time permits, the law clerk will also show the group some of the legal documents and volumes of law in the State of Oregon Law Library. Groups will only be able to view the courtroom if it is not in use.

Groups that have arranged to attend a court hearing should arrive 20 minutes before the court session is scheduled to begin. This allows time for a brief orientation by the law clerk and for the group to be seated in the courtroom before the session starts. Because the court proceeds from one case to another, usually without a break, it is necessary to minimize disruption. Therefore, groups should enter and exit the courtroom as quickly and quietly as possible, and should only do so in between hearings.

Both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals use the same courtroom in the Supreme Court Building. Each court sets aside certain days of each month for formal sessions in which the "oral arguments" of the attorneys on each side of a case are heard by the court. On these days the court normally begins its morning session at 9:00 a.m. and its afternoon session at 1:30 p.m. The time devoted to each set of arguments varies from a few minutes to a full hour. Following oral arguments, the court will do further study and research and will draft an opinion. Once the opinion is finalized, the court's decision is published and distributed.

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**COURTROOM ETIQUETTE:**

The courtroom audience should:

- Turnoff cell phones
- Remove hats/caps and sunglasses
- Refrain from talking, changing seats, and chewing gum
- Refrain from bringing food and drink (including water) into the courtroom
- Stand when the judges enter or leave the courtroom
- Be attentive to the speakers
- Stand and speak loudly when asking questions
- Only take pictures at designated times and only after requesting permission