

**COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1
RULES OF CONDUCT OF COUNSEL
WHILE IN TRIAL**

The following rules are to be adhered to during trial. If there is any that you object to or do not understand, I will gladly discuss them with you in chambers with opposing counsel present.

A. GENERAL:

1. Be on time for court!
2. Make your objections briefly and on legal grounds (no speaking objections or jury speeches).
3. Stand to object or to address the bench.
4. Do not make sidebar remarks, either directly or indirectly.
5. Do not respond to opposing counsel's objection unless I ask you to do so.
6. Do not argue with my rulings.
7. Do not talk at the same time that opposing counsel, a witness, or I am talking.
8. Do not use racist, sexist, obscene or profane language in court (unless, of course, you're eliciting quotes or facts in the case).

B. VOIR DIRE:

1. Do not attempt to ingratiate yourself with jurors by telling personal anecdotes, etc.
2. Do not argue your case or attempt to pledge the jury on voir dire.

C. TESTIMONY:

1. Have all exhibits marked and logged in with the court reporter before trial begins.
2. Have your witnesses present and ready to testify when needed.
3. Address witnesses as "Mr.", "Mrs.", "Ms.", "Miss", "Dr.", etc. **No first names, except for children. This includes the defendant.**
4. Do not make editorial comments after a witness's answer.
5. Do not ask repetitive questions.
6. Do not request a bench conference except under **extraordinary** circumstances. Jurors do not like them.
7. Never point a firearm in the direction of anyone in the courtroom.
8. Ask my permission to approach a witness on the stand.

D. ARGUMENT:

1. Stay in the record.
2. Do not try to answer opposing counsel's argument in an objection.

Judge Mary Nell Crapitto

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