

United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of New York

Courtroom Etiquette

1. Disruptive behavior such as talking, laughing, or shouting will not be tolerated.

Court proceedings are being recorded, and silence in the courtroom is a necessity. Unless addressing the court, **ALL** other conversations should be carried on outside the courtroom. All statements on the record shall be addressed to the court and not to other litigants.

2. Use of cellular phones, pagers, and cameras are prohibited in the courtroom.

All phones **MUST** be turned off or placed in a silent/vibrate mode, or they are subject to confiscation by the Court Security Officers.

3. Federal regulations prohibit the use of recording devices in the courtroom.

4. Weapons of any sort are prohibited.

5. Timely arrival is appreciated.

Entering the courtroom after the judge has taken the bench is disruptive and an inconvenience to your fellow attorneys, courtroom staff, and the court.

6. Eating, Drinking, and chewing gum are prohibited in the courtroom.

If you are found engaging in any of these activities, you will be asked to leave the courtroom.

7. Dress appropriately, and instruct clients to dress appropriately if they will be appearing in the courtroom.

All persons entering the courtroom shall be dressed in clothing reasonably befitting the dignity and solemnity of the court. Clothing should be neat and clean. Hats and sunglasses should be removed upon entering the courtroom. Muscle shirts, tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, shorts, cut-offs, mini skirts and flip-flops are **NOT** allowed.

8. Children may be present in the courtroom. If, however, they disturb the proceedings, they must be removed from the courtroom.

Parties with children may wait in the hallway if they have notified the Courtroom Deputy ahead of time of their presence, and their case name and number. Parties so notifying the Courtroom deputy prior to waiting outside will be advised when their case is called.

9. Stand when addressing the court, unless otherwise advised.

Please advise the judge if you have a disability that would make this difficult.

10. Be respectful of the Judge, the court staff, and opposing counsel.

Treat the court, court staff, and your opposing counsel as you wish to be treated - with respect and dignity.

11. Maintain a minimum level of formality.

In court and on the record, opposing counsel should not be referred to on a first name basis.