

## RULES OF JURY TRIAL

1. The Court will ask the juror qualification questions during voir dire. At the conclusion of the Court's questioning, counsel will be afforded an opportunity to pose questions to the panel.

2. No visual aid or exhibit may be used during an opening statement unless opposing counsel has been shown the visual aid or exhibit and has agreed that the item may be used during the opening statement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement on the use of a visual aid or exhibit, counsel may raise the issue with the Court, if desired.

3. Only one (1) counsel per party may examine a witness. *See* Local Rule 83.3.

4. Counsel may approach the witness for any legitimate purpose without requesting permission to do so. If a podium is provided, counsel may use it but are not required to do so. Counsel may question a witness from any reasonable place in the courtroom except from a place that would intrude into the jury's space. No paper or object should be placed on the railing in front of the jury box or in a place where it could reasonably be expected to be seen by the jury.

5. Except in unusual circumstances, counsel should stand when addressing the Court or when examining the witness. *See* Local Rule 83.3.

6. Except in unusual circumstances, a witness should be allowed to complete an answer. If the question calls for a "yes" or "no" answer, you may anticipate that the witness will be allowed an opportunity to explain that answer.

7. When making an objection, counsel should say only "objection" plus the legal reason for the objection, *e.g.*, leading, hearsay, etc. If argument is needed, the Court will request you to approach the bench.

8. Visible reactions to the testimony of witnesses, counsel's presentations or to the Court's rulings (such as facial or body gestures) are inappropriate.

9. Do not converse with your client or co-counsel in a manner that your conversation may be overheard by the jury.

10. The length of closing arguments will be established during the instruction conference.

11. Instructions will be read to the jury before closing arguments. Each juror will be given a copy of the instructions after closing arguments for use during deliberations.