



Courtroom Decorum Policy

The dignity of the Court is to be respected and maintained at all times.

Attire for counsel and spectators should be restrained and appropriate to the dignity of a Court of Appeals of the United States.

Court security officers and Court staff are authorized to open and inspect any item carried into a courtroom.

Everyone in the courtroom, unless physically unable to do so, must rise when the judges enter and remain standing until the presiding judge invites everyone to be seated. Similarly, when court adjourns, everyone stands in place until the judges are no longer visible.

Standing in the courtroom may be permitted only at the discretion of the Clerk. Areas marked as reserved are for Court Staff and Federal Circuit Law Clerks.

Only members in good standing of the Federal Circuit bar may sit either at counsel tables or within the well of the court when court is in session

Counsel may address the court when invited to do so. Only counsel associated with the appeal being argued may address the Court, unless a judge directs otherwise.

Coats, outerwear, and large bags must be stored at the coat racks outside the courtroom areas. Arguing counsel may bring in bags containing materials necessary for argument.

Only material relating to the Court's business can be read in the courtroom while court is in session.

When Court is in session, no one should be heard except for counsel making argument or a judge.

The following activities are prohibited in the courtroom and adjacent lobby area while court is in session:

- Audio or visual recording or broadcasting of any kind;
- Photographing of any kind;
- Eating or drinking, except for water provided at the counsel tables; and
- Using any electronic device, including computers, laptops, tablets, and mobile devices (including phones), except by counsel in argued cases while seated at counsel tables.

All electronic devices must be turned off before entering the courtroom, except those used by counsel while at the counsel tables.

Repeated entrances and departures are to be avoided. Doorways and passageways should be kept clear at all times.