

What Judges Can Expect from Advocates

1. Judges are entitled to expect that advocates will treat the court, including court personnel, with candour, fairness and courtesy.
2. Judges are entitled to expect that advocates appearing are, by training and experience, competent to handle the matter before the court.
3. Judges are entitled to expect advocates to assist in maintaining the dignity and decorum of the courtroom and their profession and to avoid disorder and disruption. While recognizing the adversarial nature of the court process, judges are entitled to expect that while in court, advocates will behave civilly to all parties, witnesses and other counsel.
4. Judges are entitled to expect advocates to be punctual, appropriately attired and adequately prepared in all matters before the courts. Advocates travelling with the court to circuit points are expected to be on time for all departures. Advocates who are appearing on court circuit matters who are not travelling with the court are expected to attend court at the time at which their matters are set or arrange to have these matters dealt with by an agent lawyer.
5. Judges are entitled to expect that advocates will be aware of the unique features of court circuits and be adequately prepared to address the matters they have before the court in an efficient and timely manner.
6. Judges are entitled to expect that, where possible, advocates who appear on court matters will take the steps necessary to ensure that other advocates who subsequently appear on these matters are in a position to adequately prepare.
7. Judges are entitled to expect advocates to properly instruct their clients as to behaviour in the courtroom, and any court-related proceedings. Advocates are expected to take what steps are necessary to dissuade clients and witnesses from causing disorder or disruption in the courtroom.
8. Judges are entitled to expect that advocates, in their public statements, will not engage in personal attacks on the judiciary or unfairly criticize judicial decisions.

What Advocates Can Expect from the Judiciary

1. Advocates are entitled to expect judges to treat everyone before the courts with appropriate courtesy.
2. Advocates are entitled to expect that judges understand that while settlement is always desirable, there are some cases that require judicial resolution, and that in balancing interests, neither advocates nor the parties should be unduly urged to settle in such cases.
3. Advocates are entitled to expect judges to maintain firm control of court proceedings and ensure that they are conducted in an orderly, efficient and civil manner by counsel and others engaged in the process.
4. Advocates are entitled to expect that judges will not engage in unjustified reprimands of counsel, insulting and improper remarks about litigants and witnesses, statements evidencing prejudice and intemperate and impatient behaviour.
5. Advocates are entitled to expect judges, to the extent consistent with efficient conduct of litigation and other demands on the court, to be considerate of the schedules of counsel, parties and witnesses when scheduling hearings, meetings or conferences.
6. Advocates are entitled to expect judges to be punctual in convening all trials, hearings, meetings and conferences. If judges are delayed, they should notify counsel when possible.
7. Advocates are entitled to expect judges to endeavour to perform all judicial duties including the delivery of reserved judgments, with reasonable promptness.
8. Advocates are entitled to expect judges to use their best efforts to ensure that court personnel under their direction act civilly towards counsel, parties and witnesses.



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