

JUDGE TAÑADA'S COURTROOM JURY/BENCH TRIAL RULES
AND COURT'S TRIAL ORDERS

1. Counsel, witnesses and parties are to be **civil and polite** at all times towards opposing counsel, parties, witnesses, and court personnel.
2. Opening statements shall not be made in front of the jury box or in the well.
3. Upon the swearing-in of the witness, wait for permission from the court to begin inquiry.
4. There are absolutely no speaking objections. Objections should be made in legal form **without argument** (e.g., Objection, hearsay). Wait for a ruling from the Court. You may not have to say anything if it is in your favor. Counsel should never offer argument in support/opposition of an objection or without asking to be heard, regardless of whether it is a jury or bench trial. Counsel can request to approach and any argument on the objection will occur at the bench or in chambers when dealing with jury trials. Do not engage opposing counsel with argument during the examination process, objections and arguments are to be addressed to the Court only.
5. Counsel will not be argumentative with the Court. When a ruling is made, that is not an invitation for further argument. We move on.
6. Requests for read backs are to be directed to the Court, not the Court Reporter.
7. All witnesses and parties are to be referred to by their surnames only.
8. Do not enter the well without permission from either the Court or the Courtroom Attendant. This includes the area immediately in front of counsel's table.
9. Witnesses may be approached only after requesting and receiving permission.
10. Do not approach the Judicial Assistant when Court is in session.
11. Have all exhibits marked before the start of testimony and make certain that each party, or their counsel, has reviewed them. If you are using any PowerPoint slides in your opening or closing, make sure they have been shown to the opposing side. Any objection to the slides will be handled in chambers. The Court will not allow any PowerPoint presentations not shown to the other parties at least 12 hours prior to presentation.
12. **DO NOT** publish any documents without prior court permission. Asking the Court "Permission to Publish Exhibit X" will alert the Court as well as opposing counsel that you are about to introduce a publication. This gives the party an opportunity to object and the Court to make a ruling **before** being seen by the jury. Please use this format to avoid any appellate issues.
13. Identify each exhibit for the record each time it is published regardless of whether it has been previously identified. For example "Identifying Exhibit 16, having been previously published..." This will help to keep the record straight and alert counsel that an objection is not needed.

14. Do not ask the witness to do anything other than testify without prior court permission (i.e., "Please draw on the board"..., "Please read the document"...)
15. Counsel are required to advise the witnesses of any of the rules pertaining to them and of the Court's rulings on motions in limine.
16. Counsel should be prepared to start every day at 9:30 (jury trial only), unless otherwise instructed.
17. Do not lean, sit or place items on the rails.
18. Be here early every day, or as your fallback position, please be on time.

THESE ARE NOT THE COURT'S TRIAL SETTING ORDERS. PLEASE BE FAMILIAR WITH THEM AS THIS CONSTITUTES YOUR NOTICE PURSUANT TO CCP 177.5. FAILURE TO OBEY THESE LAWFULLY ISSUED ORDERS WILL SUBJECT YOU TO ALL AVAILABLE SANCTIONS.



Stephanie Tañada
Judge of the Superior Court