

Courthouse Protocol

The courthouse is a highly traditional and very formal environment, which warrants a respectful, sensitive and serious attitude from the public.

We ask that teachers please review these protocols with their students prior to the visit. This will ensure that students are aware of what will be expected of them when they visit the courthouse.

To ensure that the learning experience at the courthouse is a positive one for everyone, we ask that you kindly refrain from the following:

- Smoking in the building;
- Use of cameras, radios, tape recorders and portable radios;
- Carrying weapons of **any** kind, including pocket or Swiss Army knives and box cutters;
- Feet on the furniture and the “bar” in the courtroom;
- Wearing of hats;
- Food or drink in the courtroom;
- Chewing gum in the courtroom;
- Talking in the courtroom or discussing trial proceedings from any courtroom in the courthouse or in any communal areas surrounding the building. (Family members or witnesses associated with the trial may overhear your comments and be affected by your opinions);
- Standing in the courtrooms (if there are no seats available, please move to another courtroom with empty seats).

We ask for your attention to the following requests:

- When entering or leaving the courtrooms, please do so silently, in groups no larger than five in number. Once seated, please remain for at least 15 minutes;
- Please rise whenever the presiding judge enters or leaves the courtroom;
- Put cell phones on vibrate or turn them off;
- Since there is no available storage at the courthouse, we ask that students bring as few personal belongings as possible. Backpacks are not permitted in the courtroom;
- Neat and tidy appearance by all those in attendance would be appreciated. We ask that shorts and shirts that reveal the mid-section not be worn in the courthouse.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.