

GENERAL TRIAL RULES

Before the Honorable John F. Robbenhaar

1. Be on time for each court session. Trial engagements take precedence over any other business. If you have matters in other courtrooms, make other arrangements in advance for handling these matters.
2. A multi-day trial will recess at about 5:00 p.m.
3. Clients and witnesses must be on time for each court session. Counsel should always have witnesses available to fill a full trial day (i.e., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
4. Stand when you speak. Do not refer to any party or attorney by his or her first name. Always use surnames. Do not argue with opposing counsel in the presence of the jury.
5. When you object in the presence of the jury, make it short and to the point. Speaking objections will not be allowed. Cite the Rule of Evidence or common designation for your objection (e.g., “hearsay”). Do not argue the merits of your objection in the presence of the jury. Do not argue the ruling in the presence of the jury.
6. Counsel generally should be within an arm’s length of the podium when questioning witnesses or addressing the jury.
7. Notify the Court at least two weeks in advance of trial if you need audio-visual or other special equipment. You are responsible for operating this equipment. For training on use of the equipment, please contact the Information Systems Help Desk at 505-348-2110 and schedule training at least two weeks before trial. Please visit www.nmd.uscourts.gov/courtroom-technology for more information.
8. Throughout these instructions, the term “trial” refers to the initial jury selection date. Counsel must seek leave of the Court to extend any pretrial deadline.
9. Where a submission deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline becomes the next working day after the weekend or holiday.