

A DOZEN WAYS TO BE COMFORTABLE IN JUDGE HART'S COURTROOM

1. The Court conducts *voir dire*. Counsel may ask additional questions, upon request, after the Court has questioned the panel, and may ask follow up questions to individual jurors who are called to the witness stand to answer private questions.
2. Once questioning has been completed, and challenges for cause ruled upon, the Court will excuse all but the first 16 prospective jurors. Peremptory challenges will then be exercised by alternate strikes, plaintiff first, until each side has stricken three names. (The additional 2 jurors kept in the room during this phase is simply a precaution lest someone suddenly come up with a reason why they must be excused)
3. During trial, the Court sits from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with one hour for lunch, and at least two breaks.
4. Side bars are to be kept to an absolute minimum. During a trial Judge Hart is always available, in chambers, both before and after Court sessions, and during the lunch break.
5. Unless it is necessary to show a document to a witness, counsel should question either from counsel table or from the lectern. We are usually assigned to a small courtroom, and movement around the floor during questioning can be distracting. Counsel need not ask permission to approach a witness each time they do so. Once per trial is enough.
6. If counsel wishes to object to a question, a simple "objection." is all that is necessary. No speeches, please. If the Court needs more information in order to rule, it will ask.
7. The Court permits one redirect examination and one re-cross examination. There is no such thing as re-re direct or re-re cross.
8. If more than one lawyer is representing a party, please decide who will examine each witness. Only one lawyer may speak per witness. (Of course, it's your choice and feel free to take turns)
9. The jury may take notes.
10. Counsel may move exhibits into evidence as they are identified, or at the close of a witness's testimony. Do not, however, wait until the end of your case and then move everything.
11. All exhibits that have been admitted into evidence are sent into the jury room during deliberations, together with a copy of the Court's jury instructions.
12. After the jury has been discharged, the Court permits jurors who wish to do so to speak with counsel.