

Trial Protocol With Judge Restrepo

1. After a brief introduction to the case and the importance of jury duty Judge Restrepo will entertain hardship strikes. The attorneys will then be permitted to conduct *voir dire*. The Plaintiff will begin and be given no more than 35 minutes to *voir dire* the panel. The Defense will follow and will be given no more than 35 minutes to *voir dire* the panel.
2. Once questioning has been completed and challenges for cause ruled upon the attorneys will then exercise their peremptory challenges. Peremptory challenges will then be exercised by alternate strikes, plaintiff first, until each side has stricken three potential jurors or opts not to use any or all of their strikes.
3. The trial day will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with one hour for lunch and at least two other short breaks.
4. Judge Restrepo strongly **discourages side bars**. During trial Judge Restrepo is always available, in chambers, before and after court sessions and during lunch break.
5. Counsel need not ask for permission to approach a witness.
6. Judge Restrepo does not permit speaking objections. Objections should be made by reciting the appropriate rule number or a one word basis.
7. Judge Restrepo will permit only one redirect and only one re-cross examination.
8. Only one lawyer may speak per witness. If more than one attorney is representing a party, please decide who will examine each witness - the same attorney will be responsible for making any appropriate objections on cross examination.
9. The jury will be permitted to take notes during the trial.
10. Counsel may move exhibits into evidence as they are introduced, or at the close of a witness's testimony. Please do not wait until the end of your case and ask to move everything.
11. After the jury has retired to deliberate, counsel shall review the exhibits to determine which exhibits will go out with the jury. If counsel cannot agree, they should request a ruling immediately after the jury retires to deliberate.
12. It is not expected that counsel stay in the courthouse during deliberations. Counsel must leave their contact information with Ms. Juanita Davis and be within 15 minutes of the courthouse if they do leave.
13. After the jury has been discharged counsel may speak to jurors who are willing to do so. Counsel shall respect any jurors' desire not to speak with them.