

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

STANDING ORDER GOVERNING BENCH PROCEEDINGS

This Standing Order governs the conduct of bench proceedings held by Judge Chang during the pendency of the national emergency declared under the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.* The Court invites the parties to raise any concerns or questions, either by motion or by email to the courtroom deputy (with a copy to the other side).

1. Participants at Counsel Table. Only case participants (lawyers and clients) may be seated at counsel table. The first row of the gallery will be reserved for additional lawyers and clients if needed. (For multi-party cases with separate attorney representation, more planning will be needed and the Court will confer with the parties.)

2. Face Coverings.

Generally. Consistent with the District Court's Fifth Amended Order Concerning Face Masks in Public Areas (eff. Aug. 21, 2022), masks are encouraged but not generally required. If a lawyer or litigant wishes to request that everyone in the courtroom be required to wear a mask, then the lawyer or litigant must confer with the other side and then email the courtroom deputy at least three business days in advance of the hearing to make the request. The Court will consider the requests on a case-by-case basis.

Witnesses. Witnesses generally must remove their masks while testifying. Lawyers must ask their witnesses if the witness wishes to keep on their mask while testifying. If yes, then the lawyer who is conducting the first examination of the witness must confer with the other side and then email the courtroom deputy at least three business days in advance of the hearing to make the request. The Court will consider the requests on a case-by-case basis.

In-custody Defendants. In criminal cases, detained defendants are still required to wear a mask at the direction of the Marshals Service and the Bureau of Prisons. But detained defendants may remove their mask when testifying or allocating.

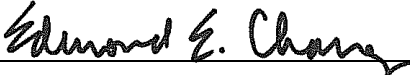
3. Arguments or Objections by Lawyers. Lawyers presenting argument or making objections shall remain seated at counsel table and use the table microphone nearest them.

4. Lawyers Conducting Witness Examinations. As much as possible, counsel shall conduct examinations while seated at counsel table, using the table microphones. Lawyers may position themselves at counsel table to open sightlines to the witness stand. For example, counsel nearest the witness stand may move their chairs and the microphone to the end of the table to face the witness stand.

5. Exhibits. As much as possible, exhibits shall be displayed via the courtroom's litigation-display system using the laptop connection at the counsel tables.

6. Sidebars. There should be no sidebars during a bench proceeding. If it becomes absolutely necessary to hold one, then counsel, the court reporter, and the Court will use headphones to speak to one another while the white noise is on.

ENTERED:



Honorable Edmond E. Chang
United States District Judge

DATE: August 29, 2022