

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
DIVISION

	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No.
	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**RULES OF TRIAL**

1. Normally, **court will convene at 9:00 a.m.** and recess at 5:00 p.m. The parties may expect morning, lunch and afternoon breaks at appropriate times.
2. No food or drink is allowed in the courtroom except for water.
3. Absent good cause shown, opening statements are limited to fifteen (15) minutes for each side.
4. No visual aid or exhibit shall be used during an opening statement unless opposing counsel has been shown the visual aid or exhibit and has agreed that the item may be used during the opening statement.
5. During the course of trial, each party shall notify opposing counsel of all witnesses it intends to call the following day. The parties should be prepared to have a witness ready to testify immediately following the conclusion of testimony of another witness.
6. The interrogation of each witness shall consist of: (1) direct examination; (2) cross-examination; (3) redirect examination; and (4) recross-examination. No further questioning will be permitted except by leave of Court in extraordinary circumstances.
7. Absent good cause shown, the direct examination of each non-party witness shall be no longer than sixty (60) minutes. Cross-examination of all witnesses shall be no longer than direct. Redirect of non-party witnesses shall be no longer than twenty (20) minutes, and recross-examination shall be no longer than redirect. Expert witnesses may

testify about their qualifications and background for no longer than five (5) minutes on direct examination; cross-examination concerning the expert's qualifications will be unlimited except insofar as the general time limitation on cross-examination applies. The Court reserves the right to impose reasonable time limitations on the direct examination of parties.

8. Only one (1) counsel per party may examine a witness. See Local Rule 83.3(b).

9. Counsel may approach the witness for any legitimate purpose without requesting permission to do so. Counsel may question a witness from any reasonable place in the courtroom.

10. Except in unusual circumstances, counsel should stand when addressing the Court or when examining the witness. See Local Rule 83.3(a).

11. Except in unusual circumstances, a witness should be allowed to complete an answer. If the question calls for a "yes" or "no" answer, you may anticipate that the witness will be allowed an opportunity to explain that answer.

12. When making an objection, counsel should say only "objection" plus the legal reason for the objection, e.g., leading, hearsay, etc. If objecting counsel desires to give reasons for the objection or if an opposing counsel desires to oppose the objection, counsel shall request leave to approach the bench. Objections to evidence should be made only by counsel handling the witness. Objections during opening statements or closing arguments should be made only by counsel making opening statements or closing arguments.

13. Unless permission is granted before the trial begins, a maximum of two (2) expert witnesses shall be allowed to testify for any party on any one (1) subject. After counsel questions an expert about his/her qualifications, do not ask the Court to declare the witness an expert.

14. Visible reactions to the testimony of witnesses, counsels' presentations or to the Court's rulings (such as facial or body gestures) are inappropriate.

15. Conversation with clients and/or co-counsel must be in tones inaudible to the Court.

16. Each party shall mark each of their exhibits prior to trial with an exhibit sticker indicating whether the exhibit is being offered by the plaintiff or the defendant, along with the exhibit number. Plaintiff shall number their exhibits beginning with the number one. Defendant shall number their exhibits beginning with the number 501. The designation for each exhibit shall match the numeric designation for that exhibit on the exhibit list furnished to the clerk prior to trial. Each party shall provide the Court with two copies of their exhibits one week prior to trial.

17. During conferences at the bench please note that the court reporter has a very sensitive microphone located on the bench. Sounds are greatly amplified. Any shuffling of papers, clicking of pens, tapping of fingers on the bench, or touching the microphone results in great discomfort to the reporter. Please avoid any such movements.

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GREG KAYS, JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DATE: