

**Superior Court of California
County of Orange County**

HONORABLE DAVID CHAFFEE

DEPARTMENT C20

CLERK: Cora Bolisay

COURT ATTENDANT: Michelle Gallegos

CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE

SANTA ANA, CA 92701

(657) 622-5220

www.occourts.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. **OSC** – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

B. **CMC** – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

C. **MSC** – Friday at 9 a.m.

D. **Post-Arbitration & Review hearing** – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:30 a.m.

E. **Default prove-up hearing** – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

F. **Law and Motion** – Friday at 9:30 a.m.

G. **Jury Trial** – Monday through Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

H. **Ex Parte** – Monday through Friday at 1:30 p.m. for purposes of filing moving papers and opposition. No appearance is necessary. Clerk will call counsel to give ruling/request further information or paperwork.

Judge Chaffee's Informal Rules for Trial Conduct

1. I hate surprises! I view trial as a collaborate effort. If you pull something from your hip pocket in open court that has not previously been exposed to the light of day, do not be surprised if I get very upset.
2. VOIR DIRE: All challenges, whether for cause or peremptory, will be made outside the presence of the jury (usually in a conference in the hallway). Do not ask for "promises" or "commitment" from prospective jurors – I will ask for the commitment that counts: fairness and impartiality. This is the time to ask questions of prospective jurors, not to lecture or attempt to precondition them to your views. The first sentence from any counsel should end with a question mark.
3. Opening Statement is simply a chance to provide the jury with a factual overview (i.e., this is what the evidence will show). Argument, not surprisingly, is not allowed. Save it for you close.
4. No "speaking objections" are allowed. Simply put, do not argue your objection or response thereto in front of the jury.
5. All motions, including motions for admission of evidence, are to be made outside the jury's presence.
6. If we have a lectern, use it.
7. Examination of Witnesses: Is limited to two rounds per side. Direct; Cross, Redirect, Re-cross.
8. Ask the Court's permission before you approach a witness on the stand.
9. If you are planning to use a deposition for any purpose, lodge it with the clerk before the witness takes the stand.
10. If you plan to read from any transcript please remember the court reporter, try to read slowly. The reporter already has permission to stop you and go back, tell you to read more slowly, or otherwise embarrass you in front of the jury if you read at the speed of light.
11. **Experts:** Do not call this witness and indicate for the record that you are now calling "expert witness". Do not repeatedly refer to this person during examination as "Mr. /Dr. Expert." The jury will get the picture when you run through your set of "qualifying" questions. Justice Jefferson suggests that "leading" expert witnesses is permissible, so I will allow a certain amount of leading to be done. However, the expression of expert opinion cannot come via the adoptive "yes" to a leading question.
12. Please prepare each of your witnesses regarding the manner of testimony. In particular, please advise each that the Court and jury would appreciate it if the witness: Speaks up; answer a "yes" or "no" question with the proper word (i.e., "yes" or "no") rather than "uh-huh" or "uh-h." If an objection so made by any attorney, please wait for the Court to rule on the objection (you might also let the witness know that "sustained" usually means don't answer.)

13. **Jury Instructions** – If you are reading this and you have not yet turned in your instruction packet, you are already late!

14. **Special Verdict Forms** – See number 13 above.

15. **Time Limits** – For discussion.