

## Courthouse Protocol

The courthouse is a highly traditional and very formal environment, which warrants a respectful, sensitive and serious attitude from the public.

We ask that teachers please review these protocols with their students prior to the visit. This will ensure that students are aware of what will be expected of them when they visit the courthouse.

To ensure that the learning experience at the courthouse is a positive one for everyone, we ask that you refrain from the following:

- Use of cameras, cell phone cameras, video cameras;
- Carrying weapons of **any** kind;
- Resting feet on the seats in the courtroom;
- Wearing of hats;
- Food or drink in the courtroom (including water bottles or coffee mugs);
- Chewing gum in the courtroom;
- Talking in the courtroom or discussing trial proceedings from any courtroom in the courthouse or in any communal areas surrounding the building. (Family members or witnesses associated with the trial may overhear your comments and be affected by your opinions);
- Standing in the courtrooms (if there are no seats available, please move to another courtroom with empty seats).

We ask for your attention to the following requests:

- Turn off cell phones as they disrupt the electronic equipment in the courtroom;
- When entering or leaving the courtrooms, please do so silently. Once seated, please remain for at least 15 minutes;
- Please rise whenever the presiding judge enters or leaves the courtroom;
- Since there is no available storage at the courthouse, we ask that students bring as few personal belongings as possible. Backpacks are not permitted in the courtroom;
- Neat and tidy professional appearance by all those in attendance would be appreciated;
- There may be a publication ban on the court proceedings that you will be watching. Please be mindful of any signs on the door of the courtrooms.

Thank you for your cooperation in following this protocol.