Local Rule 5072-1 Decorum (2014)

(a) Civility. Attorneys and parties should conduct themselves in bankruptcy proceedings, including meetings of creditors and discovery proceedings, in a civil and professional manner.

(b) Courtroom Conduct of Attorneys.

(1) Unless the court permits otherwise, only 1 attorney for each party may examine or cross-examine a witness and not more than 2 attorneys for each party may argue the merits of the action.

(2) To maintain decorum in the courtroom when court is in session, attorneys must abide strictly by the following rules, unless the court permits otherwise:

(A) Attorneys must stand when examining and cross-examining witnesses.

(B) Attorneys must not address questions or remarks to an opposing attorney without first obtaining permission from the court. Appropriate and quiet informal consultations among attorneys off the record are not precluded if this does not delay or disrupt the progress of the proceedings.

(C) The examination and cross-examination of witnesses must be limited to questions addressed to witnesses. Attorneys must not make statements, comments, or remarks prior to asking a question or after a question has been answered.

(D) In making an objection, an attorney must state plainly and briefly the specific ground for an objection and must not engage in argument unless requested or permitted by the court.

(E) Only 1 attorney for each party may object to the testimony of a witness being questioned by an opposing party. The objection must be made by the attorney who has conducted or is to conduct the examination of the witness.

(F) Attorneys must examine a witness from the lectern, unless necessary to approach the witness or the clerk's desk to present or examine an exhibit.

(c) Courtroom Argument. The court may determine the length of time and the sequence of final arguments of the parties. The party having the primary burden of proof must open and close the final arguments unless the court directs otherwise.

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