

I. CIVILITY

This Court is, first and foremost, a civil court. In accordance with the Preamble to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, attorneys are not only representatives of clients, but are also officers of the legal system and public citizens having special responsibility for the quality of justice. Preamble [1]. The Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct contain guidance on attorney behavior and this Court will hold itself and all those before it to those high standards. By way of example, attorneys may not use the law's procedures for illegitimate purposes or to harass or intimidate others. Preamble [5]. RPC 4.4. Attorneys are expected to demonstrate respect for the legal system and for those who serve it, including judges, other lawyers, and public officials. Preamble [5]. Those before the Court may not engage in conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, Colo. R. Prof. Cond. 8.4(c), and no person may engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. RPC 8.4(d).

In addition, no person before this Court may engage in conduct that “*exhibits or is intended to appeal to or engender bias* against a person on account of that person’s race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status, whether that conduct is directed to other counsel, court personnel, witnesses, parties, judges, judicial officers, or any persons involved in the legal process.” RPC 8.4(g) (emphasis added). Consistent with RPC 8.4(g), this Court has the following expectations:

1. Gender-neutral titles and honorifics will be used whenever practicable. By way of example, please use “Counselor Garcia” or “Witness Smith” when possible. If a gender-specific honorific is required under the circumstances, please ask the person what honorific they would like used. All those in the courtroom or in a case will respect that person’s wishes and will use best effort to comply with that person’s wishes.
2. If personal identity characteristics (race, gender, gender identity and/or expression, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status) are relevant to the matter, please ask the person how they wish to be identified. That person’s answer will control and all involved will use best effort’s to comply with that person’s wishes. If personal identity characteristics are not relevant to the dispute and/or a pending matter, all efforts will be used to avoid using them.

The Court therefore expects civility among parties at all times, both in and outside of the courtroom. The Court will not tolerate rudeness, aggressive tactics, engendered bias, or personal attacks in the course of the case. Counsel and parties are expected to treat the Court, opposing counsel, parties, witnesses, jurors, and the court staff with courtesy and respect consistent with this Order and the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct at all times. This applies to all conduct and communications, verbal and nonverbal, written and oral, in and out of the courtroom. Attempts to harass or

intimidate by threatening to seek meritless sanctions are contrary to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and will not be tolerated.

Expressions of opinion that tend to denigrate another's integrity are not persuasive, will not be well-received, and are more likely to reflect more negatively on the author than on the object of the remark. Adjectives, both in written pleadings and oral communications, should be used sparingly and never in a manner that maligns, denigrates, engenders bias, or otherwise attacks opposing counsel or any person involved in the case.

The Court will address conduct that is contrary to this Order and apply enforcement mechanisms as necessary.