

# TIPS FOR APPEARING IN COURT



1

## BREVITY

In order to be concise and brief, you must be extremely well-informed on the detail, context and law concerning your case. You are also more likely to hold the judge's attention with brief statements that capture the essence of the argument. It also saves court time, thereby reducing court costs.

2

## PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE

You should be completely prepared and aware of the circumstances of the case, the way in which proceedings were brought, and what your ultimate goal is. Understand the list you are in and the background and experience of the judge before whom you are appearing.

3

## KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

It's important why you are making the arguments you are making - that you know why and what orders you are specifically seeking.

4

## SEEK ADVICE FROM OTHERS

Where you believe a decision has been wrongfully decided, consult with a more experienced barrister or lawyer to check the validity of your point. Try not to get disheartened by a decision, everyone will experience a tough day in court and when that happens, it's natural to question your ability as an advocate.

6

## ANSWER QUESTIONS

Younger advocates tend to rely on reading their well-prepared script during a court appearance, however it is vital that they are flexible and confident enough in their knowledge of the case to deviate from the script to respond to questions asked by the judge.

7

## ACCEPT THAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE RESULT

No matter how much you prepare, at the end of the day you can't always predict or control the final decision of the court. In these instances it is key to talk to another barrister or lawyer about your experience.