

Practice Direction No. 1 of 2010
Court Dress for Legal Practitioners

1. All legal practitioners attending court whether appearing as counsel, spectators, or whilst remaining in the court precincts must be smartly dressed in dignified, decorous and sober attire. Advocacy is more likely to be absorbed accurately when the advocate is free of the clutter and distraction of striking or unusual items of clothing or jewellery.

2. In cases of doubt the presiding judicial officer, whether judge, magistrate, registrar, tribunal, or referee, will be the final arbiter in his or her own court or tribunal of what constitutes proper dress for those proceedings.

3. This Direction is published in order to provide counsel with detailed guidance on what constitutes proper dress for court.

4. **Magistrates Court**

For Men: Dark suits [black, charcoal grey or navy blue] with shirts of white, pale blue, or grey colour or otherwise of an unemphatic appearance, colour or design. Non-bright ties are to be worn. Black shoes.

If a pocket sulu is to be worn, it should also be of dark appearance with a suitably dark coloured jacket. Black sandals may be worn instead of shoes.

For Women: Suits, sarees, dresses, or sulu jaba [black, charcoal grey or navy blue]. Shirts or blouses of white, pale blue or grey colour buttoned to the neck.

If skirts are to be worn they must extend to knee-length.
Tailored trousers are also appropriate.
Black shoes.

5. **High Court**

In addition to dress as for the Magistrates Court, in the High Court when the judge is robed, legal practitioners will wear wigs and black court gowns, over a suit (jacket or Bar jacket). They will also wear a white collar with bands, or a jabot. All counsel will be fully and properly robed prior to the judge coming onto the Bench.

For chambers business held in open court counsel will dress as for the Magistrates Court, unless the judge orders otherwise.

6. **Court of Appeal and Supreme Court**

As for the High Court but without wigs, bands or jabots.

7. **Replacement of Guidelines 2000**

This Practice Direction replaces the General Guidelines on Court Dress 2000.

26th July 2010

A.H.C.T. Gates
Chief Justice

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