



MARCH MASTERY
a month of intensive cpd learning

Working with the Courts: Navigating Court Practice Directions and Preparing Ahead

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REGISTRAR, ACT SUPREME COURT AND ACT COURT OF APPEALS

THURSDAY 20 MARCH



Lawcover

OPTEON

Appearances

- Like it or not, you have joined a ye olde guild – tradition is a thing
- The Bar Table - who sits, who stands, and when
- Moving in and out of Court - is there a way
- Your turn – what do you say and why does it matter
- Who are you appearing before – should you care
- How do you learn the traditions

Dealing with your opponent(s)

- Duties to Court versus client versus opponent(s)
- Before and after Court
- At the Bar Table
- Outside of Court
- Managing client expectations

Dealing with the Bench

In Court

- Is your matter really “short” – why does this infuriate EVERYONE
- Why are you there – purpose, jurisdiction, power
- Assist assist assist
- All things AVL – so many things
- Need help – what is the safe word

Outside Court

- Style and content
- Duties to opponent(s)
- Registrar / Registry versus Associate

Directions and applications

- What are you there to do – back to purpose, jurisdiction, power
- What does the Court expect – back to assist, assist, assist
- How do you get what you want / are instructed to get
 - What should you have already done
 - Who talks first
 - What are the words to start, throughout, and end
 - What are the documents
 - What to speak, when to shut up
 - When are you finished

Court practice directions and notes

- What and where are they - who actually writes them
- Are they “law” - Court’s expectations
- Can you operate outside them
 - What – eg for mediations and hearings
 - How – who and how do you ask
- If you know only one, let it be PD 2 of 2014 (updated Sept 2024)
 - How to run a civil matter
 - Template directions – ignore at your peril unless you have a good reason
 - Template and requisite forms – actually have to be completed and filed

ACT Law Society Civil Litigation Committee

- Who are they
- What do they do for us
- What can you do with them

Last say

- “And another thing” by Registrar
- “And another thing” by Counsel
- Last tips from Partners
- Over to you...

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