

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

IN RE: )  
 )  
INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES )  
FOR COURTROOM ADVOCACY. )  
 )

**STANDING ORDER**

The undersigned is cognizant of a growing trend in which fewer cases go to trial and in which there are generally fewer in-court advocacy opportunities. This is especially true for newer attorneys (attorneys practicing for less than seven years) in general, and women and underrepresented minorities in particular.

Recognizing the importance of the development of future generations of practitioners through courtroom opportunities, the undersigned encourages the participation of newer, female, and minority attorneys in proceedings in my courtroom, particularly with respect to oral argument on motions where that attorney drafted or contributed significantly to the briefing on the motion.

To that end, the Court adopts the following procedures regarding oral argument as to pending motions:

1. After a motion is fully briefed, as part of a Motion Requesting Oral Argument, a party may alert the Court that, if argument is granted, it intends to have a newer, female, or minority attorney argue the motion (or a portion of the motion).
2. If such a request is made, the Court will:
  - A. Grant the request for oral argument on the motion if it is at all practicable to do so.

- B. Strongly consider allocating additional time for oral argument beyond what the Court may otherwise have allocated were a newer, female, or minority attorney not arguing the motion.
- C. Permit other more experienced counsel of record the ability to provide some assistance to the newer, female, or minority attorney who is arguing the motion, where appropriate during oral argument.

All attorneys will be held to the highest professional standards. All attorneys appearing in court are of course expected to be adequately prepared and thoroughly familiar with the factual record and the applicable law, and to have a degree of authority commensurate with the proceeding.

The Court also recognizes that there may be many circumstances in which it is not appropriate for a newer, female, or minority attorney to argue a motion. Thus, the Court emphasizes that it draws no inference from a party's decision not to have a particular attorney argue any motion before the Court.

The Court likewise will draw no inference about the importance of any motion, or the merits of a party's argument regarding the motion, from the party's decision to have (or not to have) a particular attorney argue the motion.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED: October 6, 2020**



**David W. Dugan**  
**United States District Judge**