

SUPREME COURT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 2 OF 2009

ROBING IN THE SUPREME COURT

In order to clarify the position as to robing in the Supreme Court, this Practice Direction supersedes Practice Directions Nos. 4 and 6 of 2003.

1. The *Legal Profession Act 2006* provides for the admission of lawyers. The entitlement to practise as a lawyer in the ACT includes the right of audience before this court.
2. Lawyers exercising their right of audience before the court should robe in matters where the judge robes.
3. It is expected that, where it is practicable for the lawyer to do so, lawyers who are exercising their right of audience will robe for ceremonial sittings including admissions.
4. The judges will robe for all matters except bail applications and reviews, mentions, matters listed for directions and Friday applications. For this purpose, a mention includes a short appearance, for example, for the announcement of a settlement or the making of consent orders. Where an application is, however, really part of the trial, such as an application to exclude evidence, robes are ordinarily to be worn.
5. However, a judge who robes for one or more matters in a list (for example a sentence hand-down) will not expect practitioners to robe if they are only appearing in a matter for which robing would not be required.
6. Wigs are no longer worn in civil matters. Wigs are worn for ceremonial sittings and in criminal matters (including Magistrates Court appeals) in which the judge robes.
7. Where practitioners are unaccustomed to robing, it is expected that they will take necessary steps to ensure that they fully understand the correct way in which robes are worn.

By Direction of the Judges.

ANNIE GLOVER
Registrar
ACT Supreme Court

18 November 2009