Gowning at Court

PRACTICE DIRECTION GENERAL-15

Gowning by counsel is required in all trials, hearings (under Rule 10), summary trials, summary judgments, judicial reviews, appeals and criminal applications scheduled outside of regular chambers.

Gowning by counsel is not required for family or civil applications scheduled outside of regular chambers.

Gowning by counsel is not required for regularly scheduled civil, criminal, and family chambers, appearance days, case management conferences or settlement conferences.

Judges will gown for all matters but may exercise their discretion not to do so.

Counsel with personal circumstances, such as pregnancy, medical condition or disability, may modify their traditional court attire in order to accommodate their personal circumstances, including dispensing with waistcoat and tabs. Modified attire must be dark in colour and in keeping with court decorum. Counsel who need to wear altered articles are requested to advise the Court in advance of the appearance to obtain the Court's approval and to ensure they do not need to discuss their personal circumstances or modified attire in open court (see Practice Direction General 21 – Accommodation in the Courtroom).

Duncan C.J. September 3, 2021