

## Finding Favor with Judges ...

Face it.

Whether it's right or wrong, having a judge rule against you just because he or she doesn't "like" you, isn't good!

It helps to have the judge "on your side".

It helps a lot!

But!

There's really only ONE WAY to get a judge's favor.

Currying favor with flattery doesn't work. Judges get the sweet treatment every day. If anything, trying to butter up a judge with flowery words may work against you. The saying, "Flattery will get you everywhere," doesn't work in court. Very few judges are utter fools. They see through attempts to fan their ego. They see it as dishonesty.

Obviously, challenging a judge's "oath of office" (as some claim can get a case dismissed) is not going to win points with an experienced presiding judge. It might get you out of a tight spot in traffic court, where the judge or hearing officer is new to the bench, but it won't cut any ice when the case is in a regular trial court - state or federal.

Nor will arguing over flag etiquette, as many believe and insist is a valid basis for challenging a court's jurisdiction. Flags do not create nor remove jurisdictional power from a sitting judge. A judge's power is conferred by provisions of the law that have nothing whatever to do with whether or not the flag in the courtroom has a fringe or not.

### **So, what works?**

The best way to win favor with a judge is to ***know what you're doing and do it well!***

Put yourself in a judge's seat for just a moment.

Imagine you've been on the bench for 14 years. You've seen it all. You have a full schedule today. Already this morning you sat through a bitter divorce where neither of the parents wanted the children. After that you listened to business partners arguing over a contract dispute they could have avoided by just talking to each other, instead of bringing their grievance to court. One after another. On and on for 14 years. One side always claiming injury. The other always arguing they aren't responsible. Real people with real problems you must listen to day after day. Only one side is right. The other is lying. And, you must sort it all out and reach a decision that is fair and just in the eyes of the court and God.

Then, just after lunch when you wish to take a nap, in comes a *pro se* litigant who has no idea what the rules are or how to use them!

You try to listen patiently as they rant on about how a bank that's suing them didn't "loan any money". Or, they insist they are not who they are because their NAME IS IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS ON THE COURT PAPERS or that they "copyrighted" their own name so no one else can use it.

You know the next case coming up involves a young boy whose mother has abandoned him or a little girl with ugly burn scars on her once-pretty face, caused when a faulty pressure-cooker exploded on the kitchen stove.

And here is this *pro se* party ranting on about the U.S. Constitution and due process that the party doesn't even remotely understand.

**Want to find favor with judges?**

Easy!

Learn how the Justice System works!

Earn the judge's respect!

Learn how to work *within the system*, instead of trying to make end-runs around the rules with silly games that the judges are quite familiar with already.

Learn how to state your position clearly *in writing* using properly-drafted pleadings, motions, and memoranda.

Learn why, how, and when to object in court properly with solid grounds for objections the court cannot ignore.

Learn how to examine your own witnesses, using direct examination when you cannot use leading questions.

Learn how to cross-examine your opponent's witnesses in a way that gets answers you need, instead of alienating witnesses with leading questions that pry unnecessarily.

**Get the judge's RESPECT by demonstrating that you have made an effort to learn how the game is played, instead of wasting everyone's time and patience!**

***That's how you win favor with judges!***

You will impress the judge and gain favor with the court by simply learning the simple methods and procedures.

But!

If you don't know the rules and how to use them, if you waste the court's valuable time with arguments that don't hold "legal water", if you object but don't know the grounds for your objections, and continue to irritate the judge and waste the court's time by not knowing how things are done in court, *you cannot expect the judge to be favorable to your cause.*

The business of law is often confusing and overwhelming.

It's not all about the law, you see!

**It's about knowing how to use the rules!**

You can know the "law" about the facts of your case. You can cite and recite it backward and forward. You can convince your friends and family members that you have the law "on your side".

Far too many good people lose in court because they don't know the rules. They may, indeed, have the "law on their side", but if they don't know how to control a deposition (for just one small example) or when to proceed to deposition or how to draft a proper motion or why it's important to make courtroom objections (for just a few additional examples) they lose ... *needlessly!*

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