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In This Issue



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From the Desk of...

**Workers'
Compensation
Judges**

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From the Desk of...

Canon 3b (4) discusses in part how a judge is to act in his or her courtroom. This section provides, "The Judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of lawyers and all court staff and personnel under the judge's direction and control." I have practiced law for 27 years. I have appeared before a variety of different judges from various courts. For the most part it has been my observation that almost all of the judges that I have been before are very intelligent. Most are very hard working. While their work ethic and intelligence are always something that you take into consideration, I think that the quality that gives you the most positive or negative impression is whether that particular judge is patient and courteous.

I remember a number of times when I have seen a party argue a matter with a judge where I thought that the judge would have lost patience and cut short the argument. Surprisingly, the judges were usually very courteous and patient. They very seldom cut short anyone making an argument to them.

One of the more enjoyable things that I have enjoyed while being an attorney is working with good judges. I don't mean judges who are just intelligent and hard working, I mean judges who really try to be courteous and patient. It is truly amazing to see an individual who has so much power at their disposal make special efforts to be courteous and patient. Do they have to be courteous and patient? Well they are supposed to be. The reality of the situation is that they really do not have to be unless they want to be. That means you get a peek into the character of the judge when you see how they treat people in their courtroom. Does the judge indulge in the use of raw power which is at their disposal? Or instead, do they take extra pains to limit the effect of their power on the individuals who are in their courtroom.

True character does include being courteous and patient. I am so thankful that most of the judges we have are very patient and courteous. It certainly does make our work as attorneys much more enjoyable. I also suspect that the judges who conduct themselves in this manner find their work much more enjoyable as well.