

**HONORABLE JAMES V. BRANDS**

10 Market Street

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

**Part Rules**

*(amended 6/22/2016 and effective immediately)*

*These Rules are subject to change.*

CERTIFICATION OF PAPERS:

Every pleading, written motion and other paper served or filed in an action must be signed by an attorney pursuant to §130-1.1a of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts.

APPEARANCES:

(a) Within ten (10) days of written notification of this Part's assignment to a case, or written notification of a Preliminary Conference, whichever shall first occur, each attorney shall file a record of appearance with chambers. The record of appearance shall include the attorney's name, firm affiliation, mailing address, telephone and facsimile number as well as the party represented. The record of appearance shall also contain a written acknowledgment that counsel is familiar with these Part Rules.

(b) Pursuant to §130-2.1 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, the Court may impose financial sanctions and award costs and reasonable attorney's fees against any attorney who, without good cause, fails to appear at a time and place scheduled for an appearance in any action or proceeding.

(c) Pursuant to §202.27 of the Uniform Civil Rules for the Supreme Court, upon the default of any party in appearing at a scheduled call of a calendar or at any conference, the Court may grant judgment by default against the non-appearing party.

(d) At all scheduled appearances and conferences before the Court, only an attorney thoroughly familiar with the action and authorized to act on behalf of a party shall appear.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCES:

A party may request a preliminary conference any time after issue has been joined. In any event, the Court will schedule a preliminary conference within forty-five (45) days after an RJI has been filed on a matter. A form stipulation and order shall be provided to the parties which shall establish a timetable for discovery within parameters set forth by the Court after determination as to whether a matter should be designated a "standard" or a "complex" case. If all parties sign the stipulation and return it to chambers prior to the scheduled conference, such form shall be "so ordered" by the Court and, unless the Court orders otherwise, appearances will not be required at the preliminary conference. Once the stipulation has been "so ordered", no modifications are permitted except by written order of the Court.

FORECLOSURE ACTIONS:

Any court-ordered foreclosure sale shall be held in the rear lobby of the Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 at 2:30p.m.

MATRIMONIAL ACTIONS:

(a) No later than ten (10) days prior to preliminary conference in any matrimonial action, each party shall file and serve copies of the following documents:

1. retainer agreement
2. net worth statement
3. most recent paystub and income tax return

(b) Parties must be present at the preliminary conference.

- (c) Any application regarding child support must be accompanied by a completed Child Support Worksheet.

COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE:

The preliminary conference order shall provide a date and time for the parties to appear at compliance conference.

- (a) At the compliance conference, the Court will ensure that discovery is proceeding as scheduled.
- (b) Unless a note of issue has been earlier filed, the Court shall direct a date as the deadline for filing a note of issue and certificate of readiness.

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE and EXPERT DISCLOSURE:

Within 45 days of the filing of a note of issue, the Court shall schedule a Pretrial Conference.

- (a) At the pretrial conference, the Court shall establish a deadline for the exchange of expert witness information pursuant to CPLR §3101(d)(1) which shall, in no event, be later than ninety (90) days before trial for the party bearing the burden of proof on that issue. The opposing party must serve its disclosure within forty-five (45) days of trial. Any amended or supplemental expert disclosure shall be allowed only with leave of the Court on good cause shown. The statutory stay of disclosure (CPLR 3214[d]) upon the service of a dispositive motion under CPLR 3211 shall not apply to the service of these expert responses. Unless the Court directs otherwise, a party who fails to comply with this rule is precluded from offering the testimony and opinions of the expert for whom a timely response has not been given.
- (b) The Court will explore limitation of issues for trial, including referring certain issues to a referee if appropriate.
- (c) The Court will schedule a date certain for trial of all outstanding issues.
- (d) Counsel should be prepared to discuss settlement and should have full authority from their respective clients.

TRIALS:

- (a) Once scheduled, a trial shall not be adjourned for any reason other than the actual engagement of counsel as provided for in §125.1 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts. Any application for an adjournment must be made in writing and must be supported by an affirmation of counsel establishing the requisite grounds set forth in 22 NYCRR §125.1.
- (b) Prior to the time scheduled for the trial to commence, counsel shall:
  - 1. pre-mark all exhibits
  - 2. file a brief concerning any unusual issue(s) counsel believes may arise at trial (motions in limine should be made at least 30 days before trial when possible)
  - 3. submit a list of probable trial witnesses.
- (c) The plaintiff shall file and bring to the trial a copy of each of the following:
  - 1. marked pleadings including verified bill of particulars
- (d) Counsel shall submit a verdict sheet jointly prepared by counsel. If agreement cannot be reached, then each side shall submit a proposed verdict sheet.
- (e) Counsel shall submit all requests to charge by referencing the appropriate Pattern Jury Instructions (PJI) number.
- (f) Jury selection. Attorneys shall employ “White’s Method” of selecting the jury panel. In each round, questioning shall be conducted first by plaintiff’s counsel.
- (g) Refer to our trial part rules

## MOTIONS:

- (a) Motions are returnable on any day of the week. There will be no appearances unless specifically stated by the court.
- (b) Original initiating motion papers should be submitted directly to the County Clerk accompanied by an affidavit/affirmation of service and the required fees. All answering and reply papers should be submitted directly to chambers. **DO NOT SUBMIT COURTESY COPIES. MOTION PAPERS MUST BE BOUND TOGETHER. THE COURT WILL NOT ACCEPT LOOSE MOTION PAPERS, AFFIDAVITS, AFFIRMATIONS OR EXHIBITS**
- (c) Motion papers must be accompanied by proof of payment to the County Clerk of all required fees.
- (d) All affirmations, affidavits and memoranda of law must contain numbered pages.
- (e) All citations must be to an official state reporter, if available.
- (f) All documents required to decide the application must be attached. It is not sufficient that documents may be on file with the Clerk of the Court.
- (g) The Court does not accept sur-reply papers or correspondence on motions, nor any papers filed after the final submission date of the motion.
- (h) Motion papers, orders and judgments must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Counsel submitting motions with a proposed order/judgment must submit an unattached copy of that proposed order/judgment. Counsel must provide an additional copy of any order and judgment submitted to conform to the original.
- (I) All motions will be decided by submission and personal appearances on the return date are not required unless the Court specifically directs oral argument.
- \* (j) Summary Judgment or other dispositive motions must be made within 60 days after filing the note of issue.
- (k) Any motions seeking to exclude potential evidence shall be made in writing and shall be returnable at least 30 days in advance of trial.
- (l) NO ADJOURNMENTS on a motion will be granted with a return date within thirty (30) days prior to the date of trial.
- (m) Counsel shall immediately notify the court when it becomes unnecessary to decide a motion.

## E-FILING RULES AND PROTOCOLS:

A. Electronic Filing. All parties should familiarize themselves with the statewide E-Filing Rules (*see* Uniform Rules §§ 202.5-b and 202.5-bb, available at [www.nycourts.gov/efile](http://www.nycourts.gov/efile)). General questions about e-filing should be addressed to the E-Filing Resource Center at (646) 386-3033 or [efile@nycourts.gov](mailto:efile@nycourts.gov).

All actions required to be filed electronically shall be filed through the New York State Courts E-Filing system (NYSCEF), including proposed orders, proposed judgments, and letters.

B. Working Copies. This Part requires one working copy of each motion submission, including all exhibits and proposed orders (*see* Uniform Rule §202.5-b[d][4]). The NYSCEF Confirmation Notice generated when the motion is e-filed must be firmly attached to the front page of the motion submission. Working copies that do not include the NYSCEF Confirmation Notice may be rejected. Working copies shall be received by Chambers on or before the return date or notice of settlement date. Failure to timely submit working copies to Chambers will result in denial of the motion.

#### MOTION IN LIMINE:

Any applications addressing the preclusion of evidence, testimony or other trial related matters shall be brought to the attention of the court immediately upon counsel becoming aware of such matter to be addressed, it being the intent to avoid applications made on the eve of, or during trial of a matter. Failure to bring the matter before the court in a timely fashion may result in summary denial of such application.

#### VIDEOTAPING:

While the court strives for adherence to scheduled jury selection and commencement dates, the court's trial calendar is such that exact days cannot always be guaranteed. Requests for a continuance or rescheduling due to an expert's unavailability for testimony generally cannot be granted due to the large number of matters pending for trial. Counsel may use videotaping of experts when necessary.

#### EXPERT TESTIMONY PRECLUSION:

1. Any motion by a party to preclude or limit expert testimony under the expert disclosure part of this order or pursuant to CPLR 3101(d) must be made as soon as practicable.
2. Where a party's summary judgment motion is or will be based in whole or in part upon the granting of a motion directed at precluding or limiting expert testimony made pursuant to this part of this order, the motions' return date shall be the same.

#### ADJOURNMENTS:

- (a) Adjournments of scheduled trials and hearings are not permitted except as provided in 22 NYCRR §125.1 and in accordance with the procedure set forth therein.
- (b) Adjournments of motions and conferences may be requested on consent of opposing counsel. After obtaining such consent, the requesting party must fax the adjournment request to (845) 431-1785 to obtain a new date. A REQUEST TO ADJOURN A CONFERENCE MUST BE FAXED TO THIS COURT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED APPEARANCE. All adjournments must be confirmed in writing to the Court, by the requesting party, and a copy of the letter sent to all parties. No more than two adjournments shall be permitted on any matter unless good cause is shown upon written application made to and approved by the Court. WHEN REQUESTING AN ADJOURNMENT OF A CONFERENCE OR MOTION, THE LETTER REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE THE CURRENT DATE OF ANY MOTION RETURNABLE OR ANY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED.

#### SETTLED AND DISCONTINUED CASES:

Counsel shall immediately notify the Court of a case disposition.

Counsel shall promptly notify the court on the status of any case marked "stayed" by a pending bankruptcy proceeding or otherwise. Counsel shall take further proceedings within 60 days after any stay has been lifted.

#### MENTAL HYGIENE LAW ARTICLE 81 PROCEEDINGS:

- (a) All proceedings instituted pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law §81 *et seq.* will be returnable on a Thursday morning at a date and time to be determined by the Court.
- (b) All proposed orders to show cause must conform with the requirements of MHL §81.07.

- (c) Proposed orders to show cause must contain separate decretal paragraphs for service as provided in MHL §81.07(d)(1) and (2).
- (d) Court evaluators and appointed attorneys must complete and file each of the following forms:
  - 1. Notice of Appointment (UCS-830.1)
  - 2. Statement of Approval of Compensation (UCS-830)
  - 3. Certification of Compliance (UCS-830.3)
  - 4. Affirmation of legal services.

#### FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS:

- (a) In order to be eligible for appointments to serve as a referee, court evaluator, guardian ad litem, receiver, attorney for receiver or attorney for an Alleged Incompetent Person (AIP), counsel must appear on the Part 36 list promulgated by the Office of Court Administration.
- (b) In order to be eligible for appointment to serve as a law guardian, counsel must be a member of the Dutchess County Law Guardian Panel.
- (c) Court evaluators and appointed attorneys must complete and file each of the following forms:
  - 1. Notice of Appointment (UCS-830.1)
  - 2. Statement of Approval of Compensation (UCS-830)
  - 3. Certification of Compliance (UCS-830.3)
  - 4. Affirmation of legal services.

## JUSTICE JAMES V. BRANDS

### Procedures for Trial Counsel

- 1. A. Trial Readiness: All trial dated are final. Counsel must notify all witnesses and experts of the trial date as soon as it is issued by the court. Prior to jury selection, counsel is cautioned to ascertain the availability of all witnesses and subpoenaed documents. If you have non-English speaking or deaf witnesses, the court must be notified at the pre-trial conference to allow the clerk time to arrange for the presence of a New York State certified interpreter, in the event the party does not provide their own.
- B. BIFURCATED TRIALS: All trials other than Medical Malpractice and Wrongful Death are bifurcated in the Second Department. The damages portion commences with the same jury immediately following a liability verdict. Counsel should have medical testimony and any other professionals for the damages portion ready to proceed at that time.
- 2. Marked Pleadings Plus: Counsel shall furnish the Court with copies of:
  - A. Marked pleadings as required by CPLR 4012 (including the bill(s) of particular);
  - B. A copy of any statutory provisions in effect at the time the cause of action arose upon which either the plaintiff or defendant relies;
  - C. All expert reports relevant to the issues;
  - D. All reports, depositions and written statements which may be used to either refresh a witness' recollection and/or cross-examine the witness;
  - E. If any part of a deposition is to be read into evidence (as distinguished from mere

use on cross-examination) you must provide the Court and your adversary with the page and line number of all such testimony so that all objections can be addressed prior to use before the jury.

3. Pre-Marked Exhibits: All trial exhibits should be pre-marked by the court reporter whenever possible, for identification, and copies of the resulting Exhibit Sheet provided to the Court.
4. Ten Days Prior to Jury Selection: Counsel should be prepared:
  - A. To alert the Court as to all anticipated disputed issues of law and fact, and provide the Court with citations to all statutory and common law authority upon which counsel will rely;
  - B. To stipulate to undisputed facts and the admissibility of clearly admissible documents and records;
  - C. To alert the Court to any anticipated *in limine* motions or evidentiary objections which counsel believes will be made during the course of the trial;
  - D. To provide the Court with a copy of all prior decisions and orders which may be relevant to said *in limine* applications;
  - E. To discuss scheduling as well as the number of witnesses to be called at trial, and the estimated length of the trial;
  - F. To alert the Court as to any anticipated problems regarding the attendance at trial of parties, attorneys or essential witnesses, and any other practical problems which the Court should consider in scheduling;
  - G. To alert the Court to any anticipated requests for a jury instruction relating to missing witnesses and/or documents;
  - H. To alert the Court to any anticipated request for apportionment as to alleged culpable non-parties pursuant to CPLR Article 16.
5. Jury Selection: THIS PART USES UNDESIGNATED ALTERNATES.  
There is no exception to this rule.

No Communication with Jurors: In order to maintain the appearance of total impartiality, once the jury has been selected no one is to communicate in any form at any time with any juror. This includes both verbal and non-verbal communication, including, without limitation, nods, shrugs and shaking the head. Do not even say “hello” or “good morning”.

6. Trial Objections and Arguments: When making an objection, after saying the word, “objection”, add only those few words necessary to state the generic grounds for the objection, such as “hearsay”, “bolstering”, “leading”, or “asked and answered”. If you believe further argument is required, ask permission to approach the bench.
7. Courtroom Demeanor: All remarks should be directed to the Court. Comments should not be made to opposing counsel. If you require a significant discussion with your adversary, such as possible stipulation, ask for permission to approach the bench, so you may have a chance to talk to each other outside the presence of the jury.
8. Use Of Proposed Exhibits: Do not show anything, including an exhibit or proposed exhibit to a witness without first showing it to opposing counsel. If this procedure is claimed to compromise trial strategy, a pre offer ruling outside the presence of the jury should be first obtained.
9. Examination of Witnesses: Do not approach a witness without permission of the Court. Please allow the witness to complete his/her answer to your question before asking another

question. Do not interrupt the witness in the middle of an answer, unless it's totally unresponsive in which event you should seek a ruling from the Court. Direct examination, cross, redirect and re-cross are permitted.

10. Jury Charge & Verdict Sheet: At the commencement of the trial, all counsel shall submit suggested jury charges and a suggested verdict questionnaire. Amendments thereto shall be permitted at the final charging conference. If counsel relies on a Pattern Jury Instruction [PJI] without any change thereto, it should be referred to by PJI number and topic only. If any changes to the PJI are suggested, then the entire proposed charge should be set forth and the changes should be highlighted or otherwise called to the Court's attention. Citations to appropriate statutory or common law authority shall be given in support of suggested non-PJI jury charges or suggested PJI modification.
11. Post trial interview with jurors: Any contact or discussion with jurors after a verdict is rendered may be conducted outside this part, not in the jury room or adjacent to it.

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
SUPREME COURT  
ELECTION RULES  
RULES FOR HON. JAMES V. BRANDS, JSC

- (1) Orders to Show Cause to validate or invalidate designating or nominating petitions will be made returnable no later than five (5) days after the last day to statutorily commence such proceedings. A copy of these rules shall be attached to the original and each copy of the Order to Show Cause.
- (2) The calendar call on the return date must be answered by counsel or the litigant(s), (self represented) who shall provide the Part Clerk with their addresses and telephone numbers. Non-lawyer “representatives” of the parties are not permitted to answer the calendar call. Proof of service of the Orders to Show Cause, as well as any interposed Counterclaims or Answers, shall be filed with the Part Clerk at or before the initial appearance.
- (3) ON OR BEFORE THE RETURN DATE AND TIME:
  - (A) a written offer of proof in any matter alleging a question of residency of a candidate shall be filed with the court clerk and served on the opposing party;
  - (B) specifications of objections or bills of particulars not previously served and/or filed with the Board of Elections shall be filed with the court clerk and served on the opposing party;
  - (C) a complete written offer of proof in all matters alleging fraud including identification of witness to be called, their names and addresses, volume, page and line together with status of each (candidate, signatory, notary, expert, subscribing witness, etc.) shall be filed with the court clerk and served on all opposing parties.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTION A, B, OR C OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER, AND FURTHER PROOF MAY BE PRECLUDED, EXCEPTING THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS THE COURT DETERMINES COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BEFORE THE RETURN DATE.

**Part Rules & Calendar Procedure**

**Tax Certiorari / Condemnation Part ( Ninth Judicial District )**

**Hon. James V. Brands**  
Justice of the Supreme Court

Dutchess County Courthouse  
10 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601

**Angela DiBiasi, Esq.**  
Principal Law Clerk to Judge

**Sara E. Fuller**  
Secretary to Justice

Chambers' Telephone: (845) 431-1727

Chambers' Fax: (845) 431-1785

**Richard R. Kiggins**  
Senior Court Clerk

Clerk's Telephone: (845) 431-1729

Court website:  
[www.nycourts.gov](http://www.nycourts.gov)

## **APPEARANCES**

All appearances and trials are to be at the Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601.

### **Tax Certiorari (Article 7) Matters Generally**

Article 7 (Tax Cert) petitions are to be filed with the Dutchess County Clerk where the Index Number will be purchased. There are to be no appearances before this Court on the return date of the petition.

Article 7 petitions may be called for appearances upon filing of a Request for Judicial Intervention (RJI) and/or at the time a Note of Issue (NOI) is filed.

### **Calendar Calls**

Upon the filing of an RJI or NOI in a Tax Certiorari matter, said matter may be placed on a calendar call for an initial appearance.

Calendar calls for new matters filed in Dutchess County are held throughout each month on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Calendar call listings may be viewed on the court website.

Attorneys are notified of calendar calls in writing or by telephone by the clerk of this part and require appearances unless waived by the court.

### **Preliminary Conference (PLC)**

All preliminary conferences are held at 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York on the second floor. If you are unable to attend a PLC, you may advise your adversary of the adjourned date you prefer, and the clerk will, to the extent possible, accommodate your request at the time the calendar is called. Otherwise, appearances are required on the initial date for the preliminary conference.

At the preliminary conference a discovery, stipulation and order will be generated setting forth dates for discovery demands and responses together with any other matters attendant to the proceedings.

### **Trial Scheduling Conference (SC)**

A party may request a trial schedule at the time of the first appearance on the PLC or any time thereafter. It should be noted to the court whether the request being submitted is for each individual property and for each year in question.

### **Trials**

Photocopies of trial exhibits and other documents are to be made outside the courthouse. All exhibits must be pre-marked prior to the commencement of trial. A list of all exhibits to be offered by each party shall be provided to the Court at the commencement of the trial. Should the exhibit list be amended during the trial, a copy of the updated or amended list shall be provided to the Court.

***All witnesses, including but not limited to assessors, appraisers, experts, and fact witnesses, who maintain and/or possess a file and/or documents relevant to their testimony and/or the subject matter of the trial, hearing, or other matter before the Court, shall bring their entire and***

*complete file and/or any and all relevant documents with them to Court on the date of their testimony and on any dates on which their testimony continues. Any party whose witness fails to appear with his or her complete file and/or any and all relevant documents as detailed above, will bear any and all costs associated with the adjournment of the trial, hearing, or other proceeding as may be necessary to secure the witness' file and/or relevant documents .*

**Trial appraisals, pre and post trial memoranda** are to be submitted. An **original** of the trial appraisal and pre-trial memoranda are to be delivered to this Court (no courtesy copies are required) on or before the pre-trial conference which is scheduled. At the time of the hearing, each pleading is to be labeled on its face so as to distinguish which is the original and the copy. Counsel are directed to mutually exchange trial appraisals, pre and post trial memoranda, and expert reports if any, without the assistance of the Court. Any post trial memoranda and the dates for exchange shall be directed by the court at the conclusion of the trial.

In light of the direction that these matters have priority over other civil cases, our court ordered discovery and trial dates are to be strictly complied with and any adjournments must be by permission of the court for good cause shown. Any such adjournments must be requested by fax to the court at (845) 431-1785.

### **MOTIONS**

Any motion to be submitted must be by original. All motion fees are payable to the County Clerk. The motions are on submission of papers only unless otherwise directed by the court, no appearances are required. Any adjournment of return dates on motions shall be cleared with opposing counsel and will generally be granted by this court. Confirmation of the adjourn date must be by letter addressed to the court with copy to opposing counsel. Any adjournment that is without consent, may be granted, but must be requested in person on the motion return date with advance notice given to the court and opposing counsel.

### **Settlement Orders, Stipulations & Judgments**

Settlement orders, stipulations and/or judgments **must** be accompanied by a copy of the RJI and NOI, if any for each index number listed.

A conformed copy of an order or judgment will be sent back to the submitting party only when it is accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

**The County Attorney for the County of Dutchess reserves the right to review tax certiorari judgment orders before they are signed by the court. Counsel are directed to file the original and on copy of the judgment order with the calendar clerk and to send an additional copy to the Dutchess County Attorney's Office, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601.**