

Speaking Opportunities for Women, Minorities, and Junior Lawyers in Court Appearances and Proceedings

Today there are fewer opportunities for lawyers to speak in court. This is particularly true for women, minorities, and junior lawyers.¹ Recognizing the importance of the development of future generations of practitioners through courtroom opportunities, the Court invites women, minorities, and less experienced lawyers to argue motions they have helped prepare and to question witnesses with whom they have worked. The Court encourages all experienced senior or supervisory lawyers, and their clients, to allow women, minorities, and less experienced lawyers to have speaking roles in Court, particularly when these lawyers have drafted or contributed significantly to preparing the motion, response, witness, or for the hearing or trial. Although the ultimate decision of who speaks on behalf of the client is for the lawyer in charge of the case, the Court will take into consideration providing opportunities for these lawyers to participate when deciding whether to grant requests for oral argument on motions or issues that the Court would usually or otherwise decide on the papers

¹ See, e.g., <http://www.newyorklawjournal.com/id=1202796294508/Rule-Changes-Underway-in-Eastern-District-to-Support-Diversity?mcode=1202617075062&curindex=1&slreturn=20170724155930>; <http://www.nysba.org/WomensTaskForceReport>;