

Zoom Dress

When you have court via Zoom, how do you dress? I go with a sport coat, dress shirt, and a tie. I wear jeans and comfortable shoes. However, today, I saw guys in polos, short sleeve button shirts, and one guy who seemed to be in a t-shirt. (Maybe it had a collar.)

But, how do you dress for Zoom via court?

Dress blouse.

Over shorts and flip flops. I keep the shirt hanging in my office.

Micah G. Guilfoil Payne, Kentucky

I would dress as if in court. I won't be the one the judge hollers at for lack of decorum, thank you very much.

Robert Thomas Hayes Link, California

I wear a shirt and tie but I cleared that with our judges. I also wear shorts and tennis shoes.

Attorney Dennis Riley, Illinois

Shirt, tie, and jacket or suit coat.

Doesn't matter what is on the bottom.

Would not appear otherwise, even if I know the Judge well.

Joseph A. DeWoskin, Kansas

Totally court appropriate from the waist up. Usually a blouse and jacket, earrings etc., but also jeans or shorts. I'm high risk and working from home, so only my dog and husband see the shorts or jeans.

Suzanne L. Hawkins, South Carolina

Full suit. I dress for court every day. You never know when you will have an emergency hearing around here or when a client may stop by.

Besides that is what I would expect of my attorney if I paid them 400 or 500 an hour. If an attorney cannot put on a suit and look good -- how are they going to make my case look good.

Rinky S. Parwani, Florida

I've been keeping a dress shirt and tie in the office for hearings. From the waist down it's been shorts and sneakers throughout this hot summer.

I've worn a suit for every court appearance in my life but not wearing a jacket has been my pandemic concession.

John Leonard

Dress for ZOOM like you dress for court.

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr., Georgia

Court on the top

Party on the bottom

Deborah L. Reece

One of the judges put "business casual" as the dress code for his Zoom hearings. Thank you judge for being clear!

I typically wear a boring shirt, with a jacket, and a comfy but monocolored skirt.

The weird thing is I felt the need to dress up for my status conference hearing yesterday, that was held via phone. It's not like the judge would suddenly say "counsel, I'm having a hard time hearing you, let's switch to Zoom" but just in case I didn't want to be wearing a graphic tee and shorts.

Corrine Bielejeski, California

The same as I do if I'm going in person, but I might cheat a little on the bottom half, like you.

Ed Burcham

Anything formal -- such as a deposition -- From the waist up I will be dressed professionally. Shirt, tie, and sometimes a coat. From the waist down, shorts, flip-flops, etc.

True story - I was being deposed as an expert witness not long ago. Wearing a shirt and tie, with shorts. I called for a break to get a glass of water, and before I realized I had forgotten to turn-off my camera, I stood up and left...shorts and all. Fortunately, I think everyone else was otherwise occupied and didn't notice. When I came back in, while still out of camera range, I clicked-off the camera.

Scott I. Barer, California

Shirt and tie with a jacket for me and one thing I learned is to do a test run to see how they look onscreen. The first one I did, the pattern on my shirt looked weird and was very distracting whenever I moved. The second one I did, I had a similar issue with my tie. So I've reverted to very plain blue or white shirts with very basic ties so they aren't distracting.

Andrew M. Ayers

Zoom Court and "real" court get the same dress from the camera view up. My camera is mostly neck and shoulders. Shirt, tie, jacket for court.

Depositions, meetings, etc. it varies based on who is present, how well we know each other. Business casual to tie and jacket.

Phil A. Taylor, Massachusetts

I have appeared in front of judges during the pandemic, even though I do not litigate as much. So for the sake of the camera, absolutely shirt (tucked in and professional), tie and jacket. No polos. You're in front of the Judge, you have to show the same respect to Court as you would in-person. With that said, what the Court did not see were my pajama pants and socks with house slippers. Because if I am going to be sitting down while possibly screaming at my adversary (had to do that once at a very silly person), I might as well be comfortable. It's like a business attire version of a mullet. Business on the top, party on the bottom. I pretend it's the 80's, and it works.

Vlad Portnoy, New York

Funny story-not mine.

Lawyer had a Zoom hearing. She wore a sports bra and blazer and assumed none the wiser. However, she stood up at one point and her whole midriff was showing!

True story-not funny.

I had a super important Zoom hearing. I received three notices for the hearing from the court. One said "corrected." I put it in my calendar for noon.

Worked out and was eating breakfast. I got a call from my client, who was ballistic! Where are you? The hearing started at ten (it was 10:03)! The judge is going to default you if you aren't on in two minutes. I was in gym clothes.

I ran up to my office, grabbing a jacket on the way. I looked like a mess, but no one could see my gym top. I was so out of breath I could barely talk.

The hearing went fine. I still don't have a decision on my motion.

Nightmare!

Andrea Goldman, Massachusetts

I dress just like I would if I were going to court, although I sometimes do not wear shoes. Of course, I sometimes do not wear shoes in my office, so it is pretty much one in the same. :) I do my best to remain professional.

Frank Kautz, Massachusetts

Our local judiciary have been very clear. Dress as if you were making a live appearance in court. Trial or hearings here get the normal suit.

After more than thirty years of wearing suits every day, I went to casual dress in the office when not having a hearing or trial. Most days I don't have appointments, so I could wear shorts and flops for all it matters (not that I would).

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

I really want to do my next zoom hearing wearing this tuxedo Tshirt:

<https://centarsko.com/shop/tuxedo-t-shirt/>

I'm betting the judge won't be able to tell through my webcam

Eugene Lee, California

The same I would dress if I physically had to be in court

Lesley A. Hoenig, Michigan

I have one of these:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/82331499417821654/>

Believe me, you can tell. :) I often wear it to Masonic meetings via Zoom.

Frank Kautz

I miss you Frank!

Andrea Goldman

I just attended a CLE via Zoom that had the presiding judges from two adjoining counties and states (Oregon and Washington) and both judges told several stories about the lack of professional attire by some lawyers on Zoom appearances, and noted that some judges had started admonishing, leading up to sanctions and fines, because of the lack of professionalism.

Both judges said formal attire is still required at all times, including ties, and that remote appearances don't alter the rules, and that those rules will be enforced.

Jeremy T Vermilyea, Washington

Dress shirt, tie, jacket. Clean shaven (except for my mustache and goatee).

Gym shorts.

Other attorneys in my hearings have appeared in golf shirt or appreciate with dress shirts. Judges haven't said anything, but there is written guidance that Florida judges expect us to appear on camera dressed as if we were on chambers.

Barry Kaufman, Florida
