

JUDGE LYNNE T. INGRAM
Eighth Circuit Court Davidson County
Room 604

I. Brief Biography

Lynne Tyler Ingram is Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court for the 20th Judicial District serving Davidson County, Tennessee. She was elected to the bench in 2022.

Judge Ingram is a 2000 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and was Captain of her nationally-ranked mock trial team. In 2003, Judge Ingram earned her law degree from Western Michigan Cooley Law School, where she was recognized as an Outstanding Senior Litigator.

Judge Ingram comes from a family of public servants and has dedicated over 14 years of her career to public service and a non-profit organization. She began her law career as a county prosecutor in Phoenix, Arizona, and spent almost a decade as a federal prosecutor in the Middle District of Tennessee. She has also practiced as a commercial litigator in private practice and as the Lead Family Law Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands. Judge Ingram is an Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt Law School.

Before being elected to the bench, Judge Ingram was recognized as a Nashville Business Journal Woman of Influence in 2021. She received the Federal Bureau of Investigation Director's Recognition of Outstanding Prosecutive Skills in Human Trafficking in 2018. Judge Ingram received the Larry Dean Wilks Leadership Award from the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2014. She is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and has mentored for the Nashville Bar Foundation Leadership Forum since 2017.

II. Preliminary General Matters

A. Familiarity with Local Standards

Judge Ingram expects all attorneys who appear before her to be familiar with, and to abide by, all local rules, standing orders, these preferences, and local standards of practice and civility.

B. Correspondence with the Court

Judge Ingram prefers that all communication be by pleadings, notices, memoranda, and briefs. Written correspondence should not replace or augment pleadings, motions, or other papers that may be filed with the Court.

C. Telephone Conferences with the Court

Telephone conferences are permissible whenever the physical presence of out-of-town counsel or in-town counsel is not feasible or necessary. Judge Ingram generally will not resolve discovery disputes by telephone. Attorneys or parties must file the appropriate motion and set for hearing. Judge Ingram

may conduct emergency motions by telephone whenever it is necessary or appropriate. If a conference call is necessary, please contact the Judicial Assistant to Judge Ingram.

D. Pro Hac Vice Admission

The Court follows Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 19 if a lawyer not licensed to practice law in Tennessee wishes to appear or participate in a proceeding before the court pro hac vice.

III. Pretrial Matters – Civil Cases

A. Scheduling Orders

In jury cases, the Eighth Circuit Court Special Master will schedule a Case Management Conference after the expiration of 4–6 months from the initial filing of a jury case. A Scheduling Order will be entered at this conference.

Non-jury trials can be scheduled for trial during a Case Management Conference with the Eighth Circuit Court.

All modifications to original Scheduling Orders must be reviewed by the Special Master and approved by order of the Court even if agreed to by the parties.

B. Continuances

Trial continuances are granted only upon a showing of just cause supported by affidavit and supporting documentation. Parties may not agree to continue a trial without the Court's permission.

Extensions of Scheduling Order deadlines are generally considered if requested before the deadline has passed and there is no unfair prejudice to the opponent.

C. Pretrial Motions

Pursuant to Local Rule § 26.02, the Motion Docket is heard on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Attorneys may confirm motion dates via the Circuit Court Clerk's website at www.nashville.gov/circuit or by contacting the Eighth Circuit Court.

The Eighth Circuit adheres to Local Rule § 26.03. Judge Ingram may at her discretion allow a motion to be heard earlier than required by Local Rule § 26.03 if all parties agree. Court permission is required.

In order to schedule a motion on an expedited basis without the agreement of the parties, a party must file a Motion for an Expedited Hearing, along with the underlying motion. A Proposed Order granting the Motion for Expedited Hearing shall be filed as well, leaving the date blank for the Court to complete. The Motion for Expedited Hearing should fully explain why Local Rule § 26.03(a) or (b) should be waived. If Judge Ingram grants the Motion for Expedited Hearing, she will enter an Order and schedule a hearing on the underlying motion. Counsel will be notified of the expedited hearing date by email or telephone.

Oral argument of a motion may be waived by agreement of counsel. See Local Rule § 25.04. The Court must be notified of this agreement prior to the hearing date.

Pursuant to Local Rule § 26.04(g), parties are not required to appear at the motion docket if no response to their motion was timely filed.

Late responses generally are not considered by the Court. If the parties agree to allow a non-movant to respond late to a motion, the Court will consider the late response so long as the Court has been notified of the agreement in advance.

i. Filing of Orders – An order should be filed representing the Court’s ruling on a motion within seven (7) calendar days of the motion hearing, pursuant to Local Rule § 33.01(a). The prevailing party shall draw up the order. If the opposing side objects to the language contained in the Proposed Order, the Court must be notified of the objection within three (3) calendar days of the order’s submission. A competing order must be submitted for the Court’s consideration within seven (7) calendar days of the objection. Orders should not include a line for the Judge’s signature, as that will be appended on a separate page.

D. Discovery

i. Discovery Period – Judge Ingram expects the parties to adhere to the Case Management Order and Scheduling Order deadlines. Any extensions must be by Court Order. Agreement by counsel is not sufficient.

ii. Discovery Disputes – Judge Ingram expects that parties will resolve discovery disputes between themselves. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Discovery disputes require the filing of a motion pursuant to Local Rule § 22.08.

iii. Expert Witnesses – Counsel should not contact expert witnesses engaged by opposing counsel or parties without permission and approval by the Court.

E. Settlement

The Court encourages settlement of cases, particularly with the use of mediation or ADR. The Scheduling Order should include mediation or ADR and parties are expected to make a good faith attempt at settlement.

F. Injunctions

Judge Ingram will hear Restraining Orders on an *ex parte* basis so long as the requesting attorney is either unaware of the presence of opposing counsel or has provided reasonable notice to opposing counsel and opposing counsel chooses not to appear. An emergency conference may be called if the opposing attorney is available.

IV. Trial Procedures

A. Out-of-Town Parties, Witnesses, or Attorneys

If there is a request to be heard out of order, the Court will reasonably accommodate the parties.

B. Motions in Limine

Motions in Limine should be filed pursuant to Local Rule § 30 and set pursuant to the Case Management Order or Scheduling Order. If the party filing the motion has several Motions in Limine, the party should contact the Court to schedule a hearing to have the motions heard prior to the morning of trial. This will allow sufficient time for efficient jury selection on the morning of trial.

C. Courtroom Decorum

1. Attorneys shall treat each other with respect. Please do not interrupt opposing counsel in the midst of argument.
2. Please stand when speaking.
3. Please use the podium when addressing the Court.
4. Please ask permission before approaching Judge Ingram or a witness.
5. Please wait for the court officer to come forward and receive exhibits. The court officer will pass exhibits to Judge Ingram and witnesses.

D. Voir Dire

1. Counsel should be mindful that voir dire is not an opening statement.
2. Potential jurors are seated in the jury box with the remaining seated in the gallery.
3. Judge Ingram will conduct a short preliminary voir dire of jurors who are initially seated in the jury box as well as those who are subsequently seated in the jury box.
4. Please address questions to the jurors seated in the jury box. If you would like to address all jurors in the courtroom, please make that request prior to voir dire.
5. After you have addressed the first group of jurors in the box, address only the newly seated jurors who replace the excused jurors.
6. You may use your challenges per party against any juror until your challenges are exhausted. Back striking is permitted.

E. Notetaking by Jurors

Notetaking by jurors is encouraged. Pen and paper are provided. Jurors may take their notes into the jury room for deliberation.

F. Opening Statement

Please keep in mind that an opening statement is not the time for argument but rather is for the presentation of anticipated facts. Opening statements should not exceed a reasonable time based upon the complexity of the case.

G. Exhibits

The use of courtroom technology is encouraged when presenting exhibits. Once entered, the Courtroom Clerk for the Eighth Circuit will label all trial exhibits.

H. Closing Argument

Closing argument should not exceed a reasonable time based upon the length and complexity of the case.

I. Side Bar Conferences

Judge Ingram will hold side bar conferences to avoid having the jury leave the courtroom unless it is a complicated matter that will take considerable time.

J. Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms

Proposed jury instructions and the verdict form should be provided to the Court no later than three (3) business days in advance of trial.

A jury charge conference will be held with the attorneys to discuss the jury instructions and verdict form.

Jurors are allowed to refer to a copy of the instructions and the verdict form in the jury deliberation room.

K. Jury Deliberations

1. Jury deliberations are conducted in the Jury Room.
2. A copy of the jury instructions and verdict form are provided to the jurors. The jury is immediately given all exhibits admitted into evidence.
3. Jurors do not have access to depositions during deliberations.
4. Counsel do not need to remain in the courthouse during jury deliberations but must remain reasonably close and must let the court officer know how they can be contacted.
5. Jury questions shall be submitted to Judge Ingram. Judge Ingram will communicate with counsel prior to responding to jurors.