

1 ☐ **PERSPECTIVES FROM THE DISTRICT COURT BENCH**

The Honorable Jeanie K. Vaudt  
 The Honorable Samantha J. Gronewald  
 Polk County Courthouse  
 500 Mulberry Street  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
 October 18, 2019

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3 ☐ **The Top Ten List**

1. Provide courtesy copies of all filings to the Court in advance of the final hearing.

4 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

2. When making oral argument, do not simply repeat what you have written.

5 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

3. Get to the point. A history of Iowa Code Section 17A is not helpful.

6 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

4. Clearly identify which subsection of 17A you are arguing in support of your client's position.

7 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

5. Know your audience and speak their language.

8 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

6. Be civil and professional. Engaging in attacks on opposing counsel and/or his/her client is not advantageous to your client.

9 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

7. Respect everybody's time.

10 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

8. Cite relevant case law. Make sure it supports your argument and/or the proposition advanced.

11 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

9. Facts matter. Focus on the facts in making your argument and case comparisons. Concede when you have to.

12 ☐ **The Top Ten List, Cont.**

10. Know your record. Answer questions honestly and directly. If you don't know, say you don't know.

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