



SUPREME COURT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PRACTICE DIRECTION 9 OF 2026

ROBING OF PRACTITIONERS IN THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL

Commencement

1. This Practice Direction takes effect from 14 August 2026. It replaces Practice Direction 2 of 2009 (Robing of Practitioners in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal).

Robing of Practitioners

2. Lawyers exercising their right of audience in matters before the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal should robe in the circumstances set out in this Practice Direction, unless the presiding judicial officer orders or permits otherwise.
3. Robes and wigs should be worn or not worn in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2. The reference to barrister in Table 1 is taken to include a prosecutor appearing on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions at or above the level of Supervising Prosecutor or a prosecutor appearing on behalf of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions at an equivalent level
4. Judges often conduct mixed lists which include matters where different robing expectations apply. Practitioners should wear robes and wigs in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 regardless of whether the judge is robed.
5. Where practitioners are unaccustomed to wearing robes and related attire, it is expected that they will take necessary steps to ensure they understand the correct way in which such attire is to be worn.

Table 1: Barrister robing

Court	Type of matter	Robes	Wig
Court of Appeal	Directions before a single judge	No	No
	Interlocutory application before a single judge	No	No
	Hearing before three judges	Yes	No
Full Court of the Supreme Court	Hearings before three judges	Yes	No
Supreme Court	Any hearing before the Registrar or Deputy Registrar	No	No
	Directions hearing, callover or mention before a judge	No	No
	Bail application before a judge	No	No

	Interlocutory application (civil)	No	No
	Application for approval of a settlement	No	No
	Interlocutory application (criminal) (eg application related to severance of indictment, tendency evidence, exclusion of evidence)	Yes	No
	Trial or other final hearing (including a hearing on separate question) (civil)	Yes	No
	Trial before jury (criminal)	Yes	Yes
	Trial before judge alone (criminal)	Yes	No
	Taking of pre-trial evidence (where trial is to be heard before a jury) (criminal)	Yes	Yes
	Taking of pre-trial evidence (where trial is to be judge alone) (criminal)	Yes	No
	Sentencing hearing	Yes	No
	Delivery of reserved judgment after a final hearing (civil)	Yes	No
	Delivery of reserved judgment after a trial or on sentence (criminal)	Yes	No
	Argument in relation to costs or final orders following a final hearing (civil)	Yes	No
	Ceremonial sittings of the Supreme Court (Including admissions ceremonies)	Yes	Yes
	Supreme Court appeals (civil and criminal)	Yes	No
	Arraignment	Yes	No

Table 2: Solicitor robing

Type of matter	Robes	Wig
When appearing as counsel in a jury trial	Yes	Yes
Any other hearing in the Court of Appeal, Full Court of the Supreme Court or Supreme Court	No	No

For admissions ceremonies solicitors may robe or not as they choose.

By direction of the Chief Justice



Jayne Reece

Registrar

13 August 2026