

Daniel Rodriguez v. City of New York

THE CLIENT: [Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLP](#)

THE CASE: This was a personal injury case in which a 16-year old boy was shot and seriously injured while visiting a friend in an apartment building owned by the City of New York. The plaintiff claimed that his assailants were able to enter the building due to broken locks on the lobby door of the apartment building; locks that should have been repaired by the city. Counsel for the defense offered evidence that the building was well maintained, that the locks were not broken on the day of the incident, and that the assault was premeditated.

THE TRIAL: The defense relied on DOAR for trial graphics to represent the case facts, as well as [pre-trial research](#) so that they were better able to identify those issues that were uppermost in the minds of jurors and to understand the dollar amounts that might be appropriate for settlement.

- The [mock trial](#) helped identify the types of questions that would be most productive during the actual voir dire. Counsel for the defense successfully used the research findings in their interactions with actual jurors and in their de-selection of pro-plaintiff jurors. The counsel was also able to test case theory and explore juror attitudes concerning the responsibility of building owners in providing a safe, danger-free environment. The mock trial also exposed how jurors might react if the trial reached the damages phase.
- The trial [graphics](#) illustrated a schematic drawing of the crime scene and a chart of “proven” versus “unproven” facts. These helped jurors understand the circumstances of the shooting and focus on what was alleged versus what was proven.

THE OUTCOME: The case settled for an undisclosed amount.

