Witness Preparation

As a DOAR affiliate expert, you have access to a team of experienced professionals and resources designed to support you throughout your engagement. From day-to-day coordination to guidance on expert reports, supporting visuals, and testimony preparation, DOAR can help you navigate the expert process and prepare for key stages of a matter.

Affiliation with DOAR means more than opportunities to contribute your expertise to complex, high-profile litigation. It means having a team behind you that understands the demands of litigation and can connect you with additional resources when they may benefit you and the matter.

When matter-specific graphics, witness preparation, trial consulting, or other specialized support may be valuable, your DOAR litigation manager can bring the appropriate team members into the conversation and work with you and the client or law firm to determine next steps.

The Orientation Process

When DOAR is brought in to provide witness preparation support, we begin by orienting experts to the logistics and structure of testifying so they can better understand what to expect at deposition, hearing, arbitration, or trial. The goal is to help witnesses communicate clearly, remain composed, and understand the expectations of the setting in which they will testify. Depending on the scope of the engagement, DOAR may also provide guidance on testimony structure, courtroom dynamics, and practical techniques for answering questions effectively.

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN PREPARING FOR TRIAL

TYPE OF TRIAL

- Arbirations
- Bench and Jury Trials
- International Venues

TYPE OF TESTIMONY

- Desposition
- Direct Testimony
- Cross Examination

HOW TO ENGAGE

- Common Mistakes
- Avoiding Traps
- Controlling Demeanor

Techniques to Help You Prepare for Testimony

TESTIFYING AT A DEPOSITION

Depositions can be time-consuming and demanding. DOAR can help experts understand the structure of deposition testimony, prepare for extended questioning, recognize opposing counsel's tactics, and communicate effectively in settings that may include video testimony or multi-day sessions.

DIRECT TESTIMONY AT TRIAL

For direct testimony, DOAR can help experts understand the trial process, the structure of questioning by retaining counsel, and the importance of presenting opinions in a clear, organized, and credible manner. Preparation may include discussion of demeanor, pacing, use of exhibits, and how to make complex analysis accessible to the audience.

CROSS-EXAMINATION AT TRIAL

Cross-examination can be one of the most challenging aspects of expert testimony. DOAR can help experts understand the typical structure of cross-examination, recognize common questioning techniques, and practice ways to maintain clarity and composure while remaining focused on the substance of their opinions and avoiding common traps.

TESTIFYING AT ARBITRATIONS, TRIALS, AND INTERNATIONAL VENUES

Not every testifying opportunity is before a jury in a traditional courtroom setting. DOAR can help experts understand the differences among arbitrations, bench trials, jury trials, and international venues, including how the structure of testimony and the expectations of the audience may vary.

COMMON TESTIFYING MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Understanding what not to do while testifying can be just as important as knowing what to do. DOAR can help experts recognize common pitfalls, such as over-answering, deferring unnecessarily to others, trying to win the case, appearing argumentative, or losing sight of the expert's role. We help experts stay within the scope of their opinions, communicate respectfully, and support the legal team's presentation without trying to advocate beyond their assignment.

DOAR, At Your Service

Your subject-matter expertise is the foundation of the work. DOAR's role, when engaged, is to support you and the client team in communicating that work clearly and effectively. If you identify an opportunity where information design, graphics, demonstratives, or trial presentation support could benefit the engagement, please contact your litigation manager so we can evaluate the appropriate next step with the client team.

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