

# **COURTROOM TESTIMONY FOR EXPERT WITNESSES**

**NOTEWORTHY:** This three-day course is designed for expert witnesses or expert witnesses in training in any field of expertise.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Do you like doing forensic expert work but dread the thought of going to court? Is the court getting as much as it should from your expert evidence? Being a skillful expert does not automatically make you a good expert witness. Giving compelling and effective expert testimony requires training and practice. The courtroom will be less intimidating and you will be a better witness if you are prepared and have effective strategies at the ready. This course is designed to teach you what to expect in court, what your role is and how to make the most out of testifying. Having important information to give is not enough. You must also be able to effectively communicate that evidence to the jury, lawyers and judge. Practical in format, this seminar will help you to become an effective witness and a true contributor to the administration of justice.

This course has been previously presented in California, Florida, Texas, Indiana, Idaho, North Carolina, Michigan, Canada and the United Kingdom.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

In this course, we cover topics that are essential to understanding your role as an expert witness. Topics to be covered include the following:

- the essentials of trial procedure
- preparing for court
- the role of the prosecutor, defense lawyer, judge and jury in the presentation of evidence
- becoming qualified as an expert witness for the first time
- the role of the expert witness
- knowing your limits as an expert witness
- expert witness bias
- keys to effective communication with the jury
- testimonial do's and don'ts
- handling direct and cross-examination
- understanding common defense cross-examination strategies and how to work with them
- *Daubert* and *Frye* hearings
- practical moot court training

## **THE INSTRUCTOR**

The instructor for this seminar is Jonathan W. Hak, Q.C. Jonathan is a Crown Prosecutor, employed by Alberta Justice in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He is a major crimes prosecutor and has been leading and challenging expert testimony for over 27 years. He received his legal education from Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta, California State University, the University of British Columbia and Cambridge University in England. Starting in 1989, Jonathan began teaching law to college and university students, police officers and forensic specialists. He currently teaches at universities in Canada and the United States. He has taught at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He teaches courses on various aspects of the law including Expert Witness Testimony. He teaches at various locations in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

## **CONTRACTING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**

This course is offered at the annual LEVA Training Symposium and is also presented at other locations in North America in partnership with a sponsoring agency or solely contracted to an agency.

The contracting agency is required to provide the following:

- suitable classroom
- LCD projector and screen
- Speaking podium
- Audio system for laptop connection
- Expert reports and CVs from several students to be used in moot courts – all copying to be done by the contracting agency [details on what is required can be provided once the course is scheduled]

For further information on having this course presented in partnership with a sponsoring agency or solely contracted to an agency, please contact the instructor directly at [jonathanhak@icloud.com](mailto:jonathanhak@icloud.com)