

Witness Preparation for Deposition and Witness Preparation for Trial.(Video recording review)

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Witness Preparation for Deposition and Witness Preparation for Trial

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Perhaps more than in any other field, forensic professionals are called upon to contribute to courtroom proceedings. For those new to the process of serving as a witness and for those interested in improving the quality of their testimonies, Jan Mills Spaeth, along with the American Bar Association, has produced a two-DVD series to address preparation for both depositions and trials.

Witness Preparation For Deposition begins with a brief discussion of what can be expected at a deposition, as well as the purpose of the deposition. Spaeth communicates valuable information to the viewer by expanding on the degree to which a deposition can influence the following trial, or even influence whether a case goes to trial or is settled out of court.

Witness Preparation for Trial has a similar opening that explores not only what will be expected of a witness, but also what the witness will see and how the witness can expect the lawyers, judge, and jury to act.

Both DVDs cover Spaeth's method of answering questions that, if followed, will allow the witness to avoid giving incorrect or misleading answers. Spaeth then discusses the 10 critical qualities all credible witnesses must present, including competence, conciseness, and clarity.

Throughout the discussion, the DVDs include dramatized examples of witnesses, lawyers, judges, and jurors. Spaeth has produced a program that not only tells, but shows witnesses how to conduct themselves. This method of presentation makes the learning process more effective. Spaeth also gives viewers inside information--an expert's perspective of the courtroom--so that witnesses can understand how their behavior will be perceived by attorneys, judges, and juries. Throughout the DVDs, Spaeth points out critical missteps that witnesses must not make in order to avoid being admonished by the judge, or, in severe cases, to avoid causing a mistrial.

These DVDs are essential for everyone who is called upon as a witness--both those new to the process and those with experience who want to establish themselves as credible and valuable witnesses.

Jan Mills Spaeth, PhD, has been a member of ACFEI since 1996. She has written extensively on legal issues, particularly jury selection, trial simulations, witness preparation, and case strategy. Spaeth has been an educator for the University of Arizona and numerous colleges, and she has been a frequent guest on many television and radio talk shows and news broadcasts. Her Web site is www.azjuryresearch.com