



# FORZA FORENSICS

Passion. Experience. Diligence.

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## **Expert Witness Court Testimony (24 Hours)**

### **Course Target Audience**

Forensic science and law enforcement professionals with beginner to intermediate experience in performing crime laboratory analysis, crime scene field work, or criminal investigations.

### **Course Objectives**

Demonstrate knowledge of the US court system, common court procedure, and case law.

Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate forensic science topics to judges, attorneys and juries.

Develop professional qualifications to be presented in court.

Demonstrate the ability to testify effectively in a moot court scenario.

### **Required Equipment**

Note pad

Pen or pencil

Redacted case report/simulated case report

### **Optional Equipment**

Laptop

## **Course Schedule**

### **DAY ONE. (8 hours)**

#### **Introductions**

#### **Module 1 – Overview of the court system and court procedures**

- US court system
- Disclosure and interviews
- Types of hearings & trials
- Voir dire, direct, cross & redirect
- Jury questions
- Preparation, court attire and appearance
- Ethics

#### **Module 2 – Relevant Case Law & Expert Testimony**

- Daubert and Frye Standards
- Case law for forensic science and law enforcement
- Principles of expert witness testimony
- Boundaries of expert witness testimony
- Common mistakes and pitfalls
- Cautionary tales

Practical Exercise 1 – Group case review

Practical Exercise 2 – Case review presentation

#### **Module 3 – Public speaking in the Courtroom**

- Demeanor in the courtroom
- Voice and Tone
- Speaking to the jury and eye contact
- Maintaining composure

Practical Exercises 3 – 10 minute individual presentation

Day one written quiz

## **DAY TWO. (8 hours)**

### **Module 4 – Expert Witness Qualifications**

- Education
- Relevant experience
- Initial training
- Continuing training

Practical Exercise 4 – Qualifications worksheet

Practical Exercise 5 – Writing a statement of qualifications

Practical Exercise 6 – Statement of qualifications from memory

### **Module 5 – Presenting your area of expertise**

- Explaining laboratory policies, procedures and QA
- Chain of custody
- Analysis procedures & quality control
- Presenting your report
- Developing a scientific opinion
- Common questions from prosecution & defense

Practical Exercise 7 – Analysis procedures worksheet

Practical Exercise 8 – Moot court preparation

Day two written quiz

## **DAY THREE. (8 hours)**

### **Module 6 – Morning Moot Court**

Student in the morning group will have a half hour to prepare with a student from the afternoon group.

Student will then go through the procedure of being called then questioned on direct, cross, redirect and jury questions.

Total time 30 – 45 minutes.

### **Module 7 – Afternoon Moot Court**

Student in the afternoon group will have a half hour to prepare with a student from the morning group.

Student will then go through the procedure of being called then questioned on direct, cross, redirect and jury questions.

Total time 30 – 45 minutes.

Certificate ceremony

*\*Quizzes and tests are used for student's self-assessments only. Grades are not recorded by instructor.*