

# Courtroom Testimony for Expert Witnesses

## Course Description

An expert witness is a person with specialized knowledge in a particular field who applies that expertise in a legal setting in order to assist in the search for the truth. Becoming an expert witness in any field is a significant accomplishment. It means that through your education, training and experience you have gained knowledge in a particular field of endeavor that is superior to that of the trier of fact.

From both a criminal and civil trial perspective, it is essential that an expert be able to communicate that vital information in an effective and compelling manner so as to maximize its value. The ability to do so is rarely innate and is something that can be learned and practiced. This course is designed to teach experts how to become effective expert witnesses.

This highly rated course is dynamic and combines lectures, demonstration and moot court practice.



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## Who Should Attend?

This course is specifically designed for experts (and experts in training) in ANY area of expertise. Specific examples and moot court practice focuses on the areas of expertise represented by course participants.

# Learning Outcomes

This course will provide participants with a substantial amount of useful and practical information. Topics covered include the following:

- » Preparation for courtroom testimony
- » Drafting expert reports
- » Peer Review
- » The role of the prosecutor, defence attorney, judge and jury
- » Trial procedure
- » Becoming qualified as an expert witness for the first time
- » Expert witness bias
- » Drafting curriculum vitae
- » The role of the expert witness
- » Strategies for effective direct examination
  - » Essential communication skills needed when presenting evidence to juries and judges (many areas are covered under this topic)
  - » Visual, multi-modal presentation of evidence
- » Strategies for successfully handling cross examination
- » Changing opinions
- » Daubert hearings
- » The role of the expert witness when there is an opposing expert
- » Moot court practice

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# Contact Information

Email: [jonathan@jonathanhak.com](mailto:jonathan@jonathanhak.com)

Website: [www.jonathanhak.com](http://www.jonathanhak.com)

# Jonathan W. Hak, Q.C.

Jonathan W. Hak, Q.C. is a barrister and solicitor with over 30 years experience as a Crown Prosecutor for the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service in Calgary, Alberta. He has extensive experience prosecuting major crimes and specializes in legal issues involving expert evidence, expert witnesses and video evidence. He teaches law in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore and Hong Kong, including courses on Courtroom Testimony for Expert Witnesses, Courtroom Testimony for Investigators and technology law.

Jonathan received his legal education in three countries. He holds a Diploma in Criminal Justice from Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta; a Bachelor of Science Degree (with distinction) in Criminal Justice from California State University; a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C.; and a Master of Laws Degree from the University of Cambridge in England. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2006. Jonathan lives in The Hague, The Netherlands, as well as Calgary, Alberta.