

Courtroom Testimony for Investigators

Course Description

Investigators lay the ground work for a prosecution. They amass critical information and are central to the presentation of the Crown's case in court. It is essential that investigators be able to communicate that vital information to the court in an effective 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 investigators how to be effective witnesses in court.

This course will also deal with sensitive issues such as handling cross examination on informants, confidential sources and investigative techniques. Though law will be discussed, this is not a law course. The focus is on investigator testimony and how to be an effective witness.

This three day course is dynamic and combines lectures, demonstration and moot court practice using investigative content provided by course participants.



Who Should Attend?

This course is specifically designed for investigators at all levels of experience in any area of investigation. Specific examples and moot court practice will focus on the areas of investigation 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:

- » Writing investigator notes and reports
- » Preparation for courtroom testimony
- » Disclosure issues
- » The role of the investigator in court
- » Investigator objectivity – avoiding tunnel vision and bias
- » 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
 - » Use of notes and investigative material
- » Strategies for successfully handling cross examination
 - » Avoiding being controlled by defence counsel
 - » Dealing with mistakes on the witness stand
 - » How to handle aggressive cross examination; various strategies are discussed
 - » The investigator as affiant; Garofoli applications
- » Moot court practice

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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, Netherlands, as well as Calgary, Alberta.