

Contents

Foreword	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
1. The Need for Expert Testimony	1
The Need for Expert Witnesses	2
THE JURY SELECTION PROCESS	2
THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF EXPERT TESTIMONY	5
How a Witness Becomes an <i>Expert</i> Witness	6
EDUCATION, NOT JUSTIFICATION	8
JUDICIAL EDUCATION	9
Practical Considerations in Determining Whether to Use Expert Testimony	11
LEGAL LIMITATIONS ON EXPERT TESTIMONY	12
2. Who Are the Experts?	21
An Expert Need Not Be <i>the</i> Expert	22
Establishing the Qualifications of an Expert Witness in Court	23
THE EXPERT'S CURRICULUM VITAE	31

Even Without Credentials, Experience Alone Does It	35
Don't Get Carried Away	35
Locating the Expert Witness	37
The Role of a Consulting Expert	42
Court-Appointed Experts	43
3. The Preparation of Expert Witness Testimony	46
What an Attorney Must Do to Prepare Expert Witness Testimony	47
WHAT THE EXPERT CAN AND CANNOT SAY, SCIENTIFICALLY	48
STUDYING THE LITERATURE	49
WHAT THE EXPERT CAN AND CANNOT SAY, LEGALLY	54
IS THIS THE PROPER EXPERT WITNESS?	55
MEETING WITH THE EXPERT WITNESS	55
WHAT DOES AN ATTORNEY ASK AN EXPERT?	58
The Expert Witness's Preparation for Trial	60
REVIEW OF ALL MATERIALS	60
KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE MATERIAL	61
KNOWLEDGE OF THE LITERATURE	62
PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS	63
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER EXPERTS	64
TESTIMONY STARTS WHEN THE WITNESS APPROACHES THE COURTHOUSE	66
PREPARATION CONTINUES EVEN AFTER THE WITNESS TESTIFIES	68
4. Presenting Expert Testimony in Court	70
The Fear Factor	71
Considerations for the Attorney Presenting Expert Testimony	73
DON'T SHOW OFF	76
Considerations for the Expert Witness Presenting Testimony in Court	76
LOOKS COUNT	78
DEMEANOR COUNTS	78
BE PREPARED	79
TELL THE TRUTH	79
BE YOURSELF	81

SPEAK ENGLISH	82
KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE	84
SAY IT THREE TIMES	85
GET THREE OPINIONS INTO ONE	89
USE THE LITERATURE	90
BE THE WITNESS; DON'T TRY TO BE THE LAWYER	91
Degree of Certainty	92
5. Dealing With Cross-Examination	94
The Opposing Attorney Is Likely Nervous Too	95
The Witness Has Considerable Control	97
Questions Need Not Be Answered Yes or No	100
WHEN THE WITNESS'S ANSWER IS CUT OFF	101
STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES	101
Listen, Listen, Listen to the Question	102
Cross-Examination Is Not a Professional Debate or a Search for Truth	103
How Would the Witness Handle the Question in the Real World?	105
Always Be Professional	109
KNOW YOUR LIMITS	109
BE YOURSELF	109
Always Be Honest	111
THE EXPERT WITNESS AS ADVOCATE	111
HOW MUCH ARE YOU BEING PAID FOR YOUR OPINION?	112
6. Medical and Mental Health Professionals as Experts in Legal Cases	116
<i>Benjamin E. Saunders</i>	
Differences in Professional Perspectives	117
ROLES OF THE EXPERT	118
Ethical Issues	125
CONFIDENTIALITY	127
INFORMED CONSENT	130
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE	133
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	134
AVOIDING ETHICAL PROBLEMS	136
Practical Guidelines	137

INITIAL CONTACTS	138
GATHERING INFORMATION AND DEVELOPING OPINIONS	144
PREPARATION FOR DEPOSITION OR TESTIMONY	149
DEPOSITIONS AND COURTROOM TESTIMONY	151
Conclusion	154
7. Cross-Examining the Irresponsible Expert Witness	155
The Damage That Can Be Done by the Irresponsible Expert Witness	156
Who Is the Irresponsible Expert?	156
How to Identify and Expose the Irresponsible Expert Witness	157
IS THIS PERSON QUALIFIED?	158
IS THE EVALUATION PROCESS PROPERLY DONE?	165
IS THE WITNESS AN EXPERT OR AN ADVOCATE?	168
DISCOVERING THE BIAS	171
An Expert Witness Memorandum	173
Practice Considerations	175
A Final Word About Professionalism: The Attack Should Never Get Personal	177
Cases Cited	179
References	181
Index	183
About the Author	185
About the Contributor	187