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## ARE YOU READY TO BE AN EXPERT WITNESS?

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*The author declares to have no conflict of interest.*

### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** *There is a distinct possibility that a professional who examines evidence in a legal action may have to testify in court to explain his or her work, as well as the conclusions reached and the reasons for doing so. Expert witnesses often are the most important aspect of a trial. Thus, an expert needs to be prepared for everything encountered in a courtroom.*

**Issues with expert testimony:** *The expertise of the professional in a court of law will be seen in a different light from the work environment when that professional testifies in court.*

*An individual might be one of the most accomplished scientists and /or experts in his or her field, but if that person can not explain his or her conclusions when testifying, the expertise might be ineffective. A well prepared expert witness can greatly assist the legal process.*

**Conclusion:** *This presentation will help familiarize the expert to become an asset in the legal system to best present the expert's conclusions. How to prepare for testifying is a crucial skill. If the expert is aware of what lawyers, judges and juries are looking for from the expert, the expert is able to be a successful witness in court.*

**KEYWORDS:** Forensic Odontology, Expert Witness, Preparedness.

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