



Veritas
Witness
Training

*Better
prepared*

ESSENTIAL **WITNESS PREPARATION**



WHAT WE DO

Veritas Witness Training equips witnesses with the confidence and ability to give effective and reliable evidence. Our Witness Familiarisation training provides witnesses with a thorough understanding of their role, what to expect at a hearing and how to prepare ahead of it. Our trainers conduct mock cross-examination exercises and give constructive feedback to the witnesses based on objective assessment criteria. We provide witnesses with practical strategies to deal with questioning under cross-examination.

Our courses are tailored to each participant's personal needs and concerns about the process of giving evidence, which are discussed with our clients prior to the course being delivered. We train witnesses of fact, professional witnesses and expert witnesses.

Our Witness Familiarisation courses relate specifically to the legal forum in which the witness will give evidence. These include:

- / High Court*
- / Arbitration*
- / Employment Tribunal*
- / Public Inquiry*
- / Coroner's Inquest*
- / Crown Court*
- / Family Court*
- / A range of Tribunals and Professional Disciplinary Hearings*

ABOUT US

Veritas Witness Training is a specialist provider of Witness Preparation and Cross-Examination courses. Our trainers have worked with law firms, commercial and international organisations, Government Departments and private individuals.

Our trainers are barristers and solicitors who have been qualified for 25 years or more and are experienced as both advocates and trainers. Our principal trainers have been providing exceptional bespoke training to witnesses for over 15 years. They are independent of the clients instructing us and will have no personal knowledge of the facts and issues in the witnesses' case.

HOW WE DELIVER TRAINING

Our Witness Preparation courses are most commonly delivered through a combination of live interactive training sessions and helpful video tutorials. The live sessions are engaging and informative, enabling witnesses to learn how to give evidence clearly, coherently and to the best of their ability. The courses are ideal both for witnesses attending a hearing in person and for those giving evidence remotely.

Mock cross-examination exercises are based on the real-life experiences of the witness or short reports or witness statements, and bear no similarity to the facts or issues in the upcoming hearing.



OUR COURSES



WITNESS FAMILIARISATION

Most witnesses are unfamiliar with the pressurised environment in a courtroom or tribunal and are daunted by the prospect of giving evidence and being cross-examined. This can negatively impact on their ability to give a coherent account from the witness box. Our Witness Familiarisation training seeks to overcome any disadvantages they may face as a result of a lack of knowledge of the process, so that witnesses can give their evidence confidently and effectively.

DURING THE LIVE SESSION, PARTICIPANTS COVER:

- / The role and responsibilities of a witness*
- / Giving evidence at an adversarial hearing (or inquisitorial, if relevant)*
- / Addressing the decision-maker(s)*
- / The procedure at the hearing*
- / How to prepare before giving evidence*
- / Understanding a full range of cross-examination techniques and learning how to handle each of them*
- / A mock cross-examination exercise with constructive feedback from the trainer*



WITNESS FAMILIARISATION

After the live session, detailed feedback is also provided to our instructing client.

The Witness Familiarisation course includes access to our library of video tutorials which are available for witnesses to view in their own time, as often as required.

THE VIDEO TUTORIALS COVER:

- / *Who's who at the hearing*
- / *Modes of address*
- / *The oath and affirmation*
- / *Examination-in-chief*
- / *Cross-examination*
- / *Re-examination*
- / *Giving evidence at remote hearings*

INTENSIVE CROSS-EXAMINATION

This follow-on course is ideal for those witnesses requiring further training, focussing primarily on practising answering questions under sustained cross-examination. The witness will experience several rounds of in-depth mock cross-examination, facing a variety of questioning techniques from an experienced advocate.

The witness will receive detailed, candid and constructive feedback on their performance in the witness box after each round of cross-examination, helping to improve their communication skills and ability to structure answers. This course enables witnesses to practice and embed their giving evidence skills and build their confidence ahead of the hearing.

Written feedback, based on objective assessment criteria, will also be provided to the instructing client after the session.

THE INTENSIVE CROSS-EXAMINATION SESSION INCLUDES:

- / Several rounds of mock questioning*
- / Experiencing and handling a full range of cross-examination techniques*
- / In-depth evaluation and feedback*
- / Adequate time to analyse questions asked and answers given*
- / Recommendations for improvement and developing coping strategies*

WITNESS COMMUNICATION SKILLS

This one-day session combines the content of our Witness Familiarisation course with specific training to improve communication skills. It is ideal for witnesses who find public speaking difficult and those who are particularly nervous.

The course is delivered by two trainers, an experienced advocate and a specialist communication skills trainer. The witness will also be cross-examined by the advocate and receive detailed and constructive feedback on their performance from both the advocate and the communication skills trainer.

THE WITNESS COMMUNICATION SKILLS COURSE INCLUDES:

- / The content of the Witness Familiarisation training*
- / Using diaphragm breathing to calm nerves and anxiety*
- / Understanding and demonstrating active listening*
- / Awareness of non-verbal cues*
- / Using tone of voice effectively*
- / Understanding and demonstrating control of verbal communication*
- / Mock cross-examination with constructive feedback from both trainers*

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

Veritas Witness Training provide an excellent Witness Familiarisation course and all our witnesses are now much more confident about the prospect of giving evidence after undertaking the course. I highly recommend their training to anyone seeking to help their witnesses prepare for trial.

John Messore, Managing Director, Innovation Professional Services

As the witness of fact in a complex factual case, the Veritas Witness Training course was hugely beneficial. The course provided me with an insight as to the tactics that counsel might use to undermine me and in turn my evidence and, importantly, advice on how to address such tactics. I gained confidence and reassurance that I could focus on my evidence.

James Higgins, Group Finance Director

I was extremely impressed by the help I received from my Veritas trainer. This was carried out in a friendly and informal manner, and undoubtedly helped me cope with a 7 hour Public Inquiry witness session. I would recommend this company and will be returning to them myself in the not too distant future.

Stewart McKechnie, Director

I felt well prepared following the Veritas Witness Training Witness Familiarisation course and entered the cross-examination with bolstered confidence. The trainers were extremely knowledgeable, and the feedback provided throughout the situational discussions was extremely helpful.

L. Nigel Burgess, Head of Regulation, Regulatory Authority of Bermuda

A selection of organisations our trainers have delivered courses for

Law firms

Addleshaw Goddard
Allen & Overy
Baker McKenzie
Beal & Co
BLM
Brodies
Burness Paull
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Charles Russell Speechlys
Clifford Chance
Clyde & Co
CMS
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dentons
DLA Piper
DWF
Enyo Law
Farrer & Co
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Fieldfisher
Government Legal Department
Gowling WLG
Herbert Smith Freehills
HFW
Hill Dickinson
Hogan Lovells
Ince

Kennedys
Kingsley Napley
Levison Meltzer Pigott
Lewis Silkin
Linklaters
Macfarlanes
Maclay Murray & Spens
MacRoberts
Mayer Brown
Mishcon de Reya
Norton Rose Fulbright
Payne Hicks Beach
Powell Gilbert
Pinsent Masons
Reed Smith
Rosenblatt
RPC
Shepherd and Wedderburn
Simmons & Simmons
Slaughter & May
Stephenson Harwood
Trowers & Hamlin
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
White & Case
WilmerHale
Withers
Wragge & Co

Companies & Organisations

Air Accidents Investigation Branch
Animal and Plant Health Agency
AXA
B&Q
Barclays
BBC
BDO
Birmingham City Council
British Telecom
Centrica
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
CIPFA
Deloitte
DOENI
Environment Agency
FACT
General Pharmaceutical Council
Grant Thornton
Home Office
HMRC
Information Commissioner's Office
Innovation Professional Services
Insolvency Service
Inspired Minds
IOSH
KPMG
Lloyds
London Borough of Hammersmith
and Fulham

London Borough of Southwark
London Fire Brigade
London Underground
Loughs Agency
Marathon Oil
Marks & Spencer
Newcastle City Council
North East Ambulance Trust
Northern Ireland Driving Vehicle Testing
Agency
Ofsted
Ofwat
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Pearson
Phone-paid Services Authority
PwC
Regulatory Authority of Bermuda
Royal Bank of Scotland
Sandwell PCT
Security Industry Authority
Society of Operations Engineers
The Cotswold Group
Transport for London
Tullow Oil
United Utilities
Virgin Trains
Welcome Break
Welsh Water
Wilmott Dixon



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