Cross-Exam....Are we having fun yet??

Paula Sweeney
Slack Davis Sanger
Dallas
psweeney@slackdavis.com

1

- Deposition Cross versus Trial Cross
- One size definitely does not fit all
 - Lawyers OR witnesses
- Why am I doing this????

Depositions

3

Rule 1. No Scripts

- Don't be predictable
- [and relaxing]
- [soothing]
- [calming]
- Why get the witness comfortable??

Q: "State your name"

A: "Dr. Gray"

Q: "Isn't it true it would be speculation to say Ms. Wright had a pulmonary embolism?"

A: "yes sir"

Q: "now, let's get your background, where did you go to med school?"

5

In fact, make them un-comfortable

- 12 Q. And then where did you -- what did you do from there?
- 13 A. From there, I went to medical school at Western
- 14 University of Health Sciences. College of Osteopathic Medicine
- 15 of the Pacific in Pomona, California, and I graduated from
- 16 there in 2003.
- 17 Q. How many medical schools did you apply to?
- 18 A. Over seven.
- 19 Q. How many were you admitted to?
- 20 A. Two.
- 21 **O. Which two?**
- 22 A. West Virginia Osteopathic Medical School and Western
- 23 University.





Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the <u>UT Law CLE eLibrary (utcle.org/elibrary)</u>

Title search: Overcoming the Problem Witness

Also available as part of the eCourse

<u>Answer Bar: Taking Your Car Crash Case to Trial</u>

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 2023 Winning at Deposition: Skills and Strategy session "Overcoming the Problem Witness"