



# State of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

## Courtroom Testimony (WEB)

### Introduction

Testifying in court can be a stressful experience with an uncertain yet important outcome. To help address this aspect of your job, a new, self-paced training course called, "Courtroom Testimony", will help you prepare to testify effectively using a variety of techniques, critically review reports to prepare for questioning while demonstrating good non-verbal, verbal, and response quality behaviors on the stand to help leverage your credibility with a jury. This course also has a companion mobile tool to help you prepare just in time for your testimony.

### Learning Objectives

The course will address the following enabling learning objectives:

- Explain the purpose and process of a jury trial, recognize the importance of testifying effectively, identify key participants in the trial and describe their roles and responsibilities, describe their own role as a witness, identify the challenges of testifying in a jury trial.
- Given a subpoena to testify in court, prepare by reviewing your report and/or prior testimony to recall the facts of case and the elements of the crime, identify any potential deficiencies in these documents, and meet with the prosecutor to discuss the case.
- Once in court, testify effectively under examination by demonstrating good non-verbal, verbal, and response quality behaviors on the stand.
- On your day in court, dress appropriately and behave professionally when arriving, waiting, and on break. Use down time to better prepare to testify.
- Once in court, testify effectively under challenging cross-examination by recognizing attorney strategies and tactics and using best practices to counter those strategies and tactics.

### Content Outline

#### Module 1: Introduction

- Module 1-1: Welcome and Course Overview



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## **Module 2: Foundations of Effective Testimony**

- Module 2-1: Recognizing What's at Stake
- Module 2-2: Judicial Process Overview
- Module 2-3: What to Expect When Testifying

## **Module 3: Building Your Testifying Skills**

- Module 3-1: Preparing to Testify
- Module 3-2: Employing Good Body Language
- Module 3-3: Speaking Effectively
- Module 3-4: Providing Good Answers
- Module 3-5: Handling Cross-examination

## **Module 4: Your Day in Court**

- Module 4-1: Review Case Material
- Module 4-2: Meeting with the Prosecutor
- Module 4-3: Testifying Under Examination
- Module 4-4: Testifying Under Cross-examination

## **Module 5: Assessment**

- Module 5-1: Assessment
- Module 5-2: Wrap-up and Resources