

## **DOCUMENT 12**

# **WHAT THE PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, AND OFFICER ARE LIKELY THINKING**

## **PURPOSE**

Most self-represented litigants spend all of their time thinking about themselves and almost no time thinking about how the other participants view the case. Understanding perspective helps avoid common mistakes.

## **THE PROSECUTOR**

The prosecutor generally wants a clean, efficient proceeding. They are accustomed to defendants accepting the process and may be surprised by a prepared, organized litigant.

What impresses prosecutors: • Preparation • Professionalism • Respect • Understanding the burden of proof

What hurts credibility: • Anger • Conspiracy arguments • Interruptions • Emotional reactions

## **THE JUDGE**

Judges generally want orderly proceedings. They often care more about procedure and courtroom management than the underlying dispute.

What judges appreciate: • Respectful conduct • Organization • Following instructions • Efficient presentation

What creates problems: • Arguing with rulings • Lecturing the court • Refusing to answer basic questions

## **THE OFFICER**

Most officers appear in court because they were assigned to do so. They often expect routine testimony and may not anticipate careful questioning.

What often reveals useful information: • Short questions • Specific facts • Calm follow-up questions

## **LD APPLICATION**

The Liberty Dialogues does not require hostility toward any participant. It encourages disciplined examination of authority, jurisdiction, status, standing, obligation, and enforcement while maintaining professionalism.

## **PRACTICAL EXAMPLE**

Judge: 'Please move on.' Poor response: 'You are violating my rights.' Better response: 'Yes, Your Honor.' Preserve the issue later if necessary.

## **FINAL PRINCIPLE**

The objective is not to defeat personalities. The objective is to understand the process, preserve the record, and require proof rather than assumption.