

DOCUMENT 16

THE COMPLETE LIBERTY DIALOGUES TRIAL CHECKLIST

PURPOSE

This document provides a complete case checklist from beginning to end. Use it as a master reference throughout the entire process.

AFTER RECEIVING A CITATION OR CHARGE

■ Remain calm ■ Preserve all documents ■ Record dates and deadlines ■ Begin organizing a case binder ■ Read orientation materials

BEFORE THE FIRST COURT APPEARANCE

■ Review the Liberty Dialogues framework ■ Understand Authority, Jurisdiction, Status, Standing, Obligation, Enforcement ■ Prepare questions ■ Review procedural documents

PRE-TRIAL PREPARATION

■ Review evidence ■ Organize exhibits ■ Prepare voir dire questions ■ Prepare opening statement ■ Prepare cross examination ■ Review objections ■ Prepare closing argument

JURY SELECTION

■ Identify bias ■ Confirm understanding of burden of proof ■ Evaluate attitudes toward police testimony ■ Remain calm and respectful

OPENING STATEMENT

■ Explain what evidence will show ■ Avoid arguing law ■ Focus on facts and burden of proof

DURING THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE

■ Take notes ■ Identify assumptions ■ Preserve objections ■ Prepare cross examination

CROSS EXAMINATION

■ Ask short questions ■ One fact at a time ■ Avoid argument ■ Focus on missing facts and assumptions

CLOSING ARGUMENT

■ Focus on burden of proof ■ Explain what was not proven ■ Remain professional ■ Avoid emotional appeals

AFTER VERDICT

■ Remain calm ■ Preserve issues ■ Review post-trial motions ■ Obtain rulings where necessary

APPEAL

■ Review deadlines ■ File Notice of Appeal if appropriate ■ Organize preserved issues ■ Review appellate materials

FINAL PRINCIPLE

Preparation. Structure. Discipline. Understanding. These principles are more valuable than emotion, assumptions, or panic.