

DOCUMENT 20

THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO BEFORE TRIAL

PURPOSE

Most trial outcomes are influenced long before anyone enters the courtroom. This document focuses on practical preparation rather than legal theory.

1. Organize all documents in a binder.
2. Read the entire case package in order.
3. Understand the burden of proof.
4. Review the Liberty Dialogues sequence.
5. Identify the key facts of your case.
6. Create a one-minute case summary.
7. Review all evidence carefully.
8. Prepare voir dire questions.
9. Prepare your opening statement.
10. Prepare cross-examination questions.
11. Review common objections.
12. Prepare your closing argument.
13. Preserve copies of every filing.
14. Review applicable court rules.
15. Confirm filing deadlines.
16. Prepare a notebook for trial notes.
17. Organize exhibits and references.
18. Anticipate unfavorable testimony.
19. Practice speaking calmly.
20. Plan courtroom attire.
21. Arrive early and observe the courtroom.
22. Focus on facts, not assumptions.
23. Avoid last-minute changes.
24. Get adequate rest before trial.
25. Remember that preparation creates confidence.

LD APPLICATION

The Liberty Dialogues emphasizes preparation, structure, and understanding. Preparation reduces fear and improves the ability to identify assumptions and require proof.

FINAL PRINCIPLE

Confidence is not created by emotion. It is created by preparation. The better prepared you are, the more effectively you can participate in the process.