

ANATOMY OF A TRIAL NOTEBOOK

The difference between winning and losing often comes down to who can find the right document at the critical moment. This framework will help you create a system that turns preparation into power.

CASE THEORY AND THEMES

Your north star that keeps everyone aligned on the story you're telling.

1. One-page case summary (5 sentences max)
2. Three main themes that resonate with jury
3. Keep visible at ALL times during trial

LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Your instant law library for winning arguments and defeating objections.

1. Key cases with page numbers highlighted
2. Common objections and responses
3. Judge's prior rulings on similar issues

JURY RESOURCES

Your guide to connecting with the people who will decide your case.

1. Each juror's job and background
2. Body language and leadership dynamics
3. Questions asked during voir dire

EVIDENCE COMMAND

Your roadmap for getting every exhibit admitted smoothly and efficiently.

1. One-line description + introducing witness
2. Pre-written foundation scripts
3. Expected objections with responses ready

WITNESS MATERIALS

Everything you need to guide friendly witnesses and challenge hostile ones.

1. Personality notes and trigger points
2. Impeachment packages organized by topic
3. Best admissions and worst answers documented

DAILY PLANS

Your battle plan that keeps the entire team synchronized and prepared.

1. Witness schedule with time estimates
2. Exhibits to introduce each day
3. Backup plans for schedule changes

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

Your safety net for when things don't go according to plan.

1. Witness no-show procedures
2. Technology failure backups
3. Key contact information