

COURTROOM TESTIMONY

A Practical Skills Workshop for Police and Other Law Enforcement Professionals

Testifying in court can be very daunting. There is a lot riding on your performance.

Your testimony can make or break a case.

In one intensive day, you will get the knowledge and practical skills you need to meet this challenge head on.

- Preparing for your day in court – what you need to know to make the most of your testimony
- Understanding the role of the Crown and what they can and can't do for you
- Strategies for mastering the direct examination
- Expert tips from experienced defence counsel on what to expect on cross examination

And don't miss the afternoon **Courtroom Testimony Skills Workshop** where you will have a unique opportunity to apply your learning and get individualized feedback on your performance.

PROGRAM CHAIR

Lisa Henderson

Ministry of the Attorney General
(retired)

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Thursday, December 7, 2023:

Online (Live)

Full Day: 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET

Morning Only: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET

OR

Thursday, February 8, 2024:

Online (Replay)

Morning Only: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET

Can't make the date?

Registration includes 120-day unlimited, online access to the recorded program (morning sessions only).

Register today at:

[osgoodepd.ca/
courtroom-testimony](https://osgoodepd.ca/courtroom-testimony)

Courtroom Testimony

A Practical Skills Workshop for Police and Other Law Enforcement Professionals

In this interactive OsgoodePD program, you will hear from an expert faculty of judges, Crown Attorneys and defence counsel on what it takes to prepare for and provide bulletproof testimony in court.

In an information-packed morning session, you will drill down on the essentials of how to prepare and give evidence in court.

In the afternoon, you will participate in the **Courtroom Testimony Skills Workshop**. During this live session, you will have a unique opportunity to further hone your testimony skills and benefit from personalized feedback from experienced facilitators.

Using a realistic **criminal case fact scenario** (which you will receive in advance of the program), you will break into small groups and practice giving evidence on direct examination and on cross-examination. Your instructors will provide you with feedback on a variety of topics including effective communication techniques and how to avoid bad habits.

Both the morning sessions and afternoon workshop will provide you with strategic insight and practical advice on how to maximize the quality and impact of your testimony.

Topics Include

- Reviewing your notes and the evidence to ensure you're fully prepared
- Understanding the role of the Crown with a focus on the obligations and limitations set upon the Crown (which can impact the effectiveness of your testimony)
- Identifying and avoiding bad habits when testifying
- Using effective communication techniques (word choice, composure, body language, etc.) when giving evidence in chief and on cross
- Dealing with different types of defence counsel when being cross-examined

Who Should Attend

- Police (all officers and civilian members)
- Other Law Enforcement Professionals

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Agenda

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction from the Program Chair

Lisa Henderson

Ministry of the Attorney General (retired)

9:05 a.m.

What the Crown Attorney Can and Can't Do for You

Lisa Henderson

Ministry of the Attorney General (retired)

Understanding the relationship you have with the Crown is a key element of being fully prepared to testify in court. Failure to recognize the significance of that relationship and the obligations and limitations set upon the Crown can potentially jeopardize the effectiveness of your testimony. In this session, an experienced Crown Attorney will examine the roles of each party in the process.

10:00 a.m.

Preparing for Your Day In Court

Detective Sergeant James King

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

What do you need to do to ensure that you are adequately prepared to testify? Gain an in-depth understanding on what steps to take immediately when you've been called to court.

- What are effective police notes and how to review them
- How to best review the evidence (videos, photographs, business documents, witness statements, victim statements and any statements given by the accused)
- Performing a walk through of the investigation and answering all of the important questions:
 - Why did I do what I did?
 - Why did I do it *when* I did it?

- What was my authority for doing so?
- Meeting with the Crown prior to the hearing to discuss the case and any potentially problematic issues.

10:45 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m.

How To Put Your Best Case Forward: Strategies for Succeeding on Direct and Surviving (and even winning) on Cross-Examination

Lisa Henderson

Ministry of the Attorney General (retired)

Detective Sergeant James King

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

The Hon. Justice Rick Libman

Ontario Court of Justice

Maureen Salama

Brauti Thorning LLP

In this session, you will hear from all parties involved in the process as they discuss best practices in giving evidence during direct examination and on cross-examination. An experienced Crown Attorney will outline key strategies for providing effective testimony during direct examination. You will also hear from defence counsel as they pull back the curtain to reveal how to best anticipate and handle different types of scenarios you may encounter on cross examination. The session will close with a judge’s perspective on how to maximize the impact of your testimony.

12:30 p.m.

Lunch break (Program ends for those only in the morning sessions)

1:30 p.m.

Courtroom Testimony Skills Workshop (optional, separate registration is required)

Jason Balgopal

Assistant Crown Attorney, Scarborough Crown Attorney’s Office, Ministry of the Attorney General

Charlena Claxton

Claxton Law

Althea Coke

Barrister & Solicitor

Emily Marrocco

Crown Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General

Maeve Mungovan

Counsel, Office of the Independent Police Review Director, Ministry of the Attorney General

Maureen Salama

Brauti Thorning LLP

Richard Stern

Barrister & Solicitor

Warren Thompson

former Assistant Crown Attorney, Crown Attorney’s Office (Toronto), Ministry of the Attorney General

In this hands-on, intensive workshop, you will have a valuable opportunity to hone your testimony skills and benefit from personalized feedback from an experienced faculty of judges, Crown Attorneys and defence counsel.

Using a realistic criminal case fact scenario, you will break into small groups and participate in a hearing in which you will give evidence in direct examination and on cross-examination. Instructors will provide you with feedback on a variety of topics, including:

- Effective communication techniques (word choice, composure, body language, etc.)
- Bad habits and how to avoid them
- Dealing with different types of defence counsel

You will leave with practical tips and strategies you can apply with confidence the next time you are required to testify in court.

NOTE: There will be a 15 minute break during this session.

4:45 p.m.

Program ends

What Past Participants Have Said:

“A very good program which should be provided to all officers.”

Normand Légaré, Enforcement Officer, ECCC

“This course is a must for any officer. It not only highlights the value of taking detailed notes but also helps clearly define the officer’s role in the trial process.”

Const. Gregory Scott, Halton Regional Police

“Very well organized. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to interact with the Crowns and defence lawyers.”

Geovanna Santamaria, Disclosure Facilitator, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

“Great learning experience!”

Steve Witt, Forensic Video Analyst, Barrie Police Service

“Excellent program! It provides officers with a more well-rounded perspective of our role in the courtroom.”

Const. Ian Weir, Halton Regional Police Service

“I found the instructors very informative and professional.”

Percy Nicolas, Investigator, Criminal Investigations Section, Canada Border Services Agency

“Very good day. Lots of useful information. Excellent!”

Jacques Lacroix, Investigator, Canada Revenue Agency – Criminal Investigations Division

Chair

Lisa Henderson
Ministry of the Attorney General (retired)

Faculty

Jason Balgopal
Assistant Crown Attorney,
Scarborough Crown Attorney's
Office, Ministry of the Attorney
General

Charlena Claxton
Claxton Law

Althea Coke
Barrister & Solicitor

Lisa Henderson
Ministry of the Attorney General
(retired)

Detective Sergeant James King
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

The Hon. Justice Rick Libman
Ontario Court of Justice

Emily Marrocco
Crown Counsel, Ministry of the
Attorney General

Maeve Mungovan
Counsel, Office of the Independent
Police Review Director, Ministry of
the Attorney General

Maureen Salama
Brauti Thorning LLP

Richard Stern
Barrister & Solicitor

Warren Thompson
former Assistant Crown Attorney,
Crown Attorney's Office (Toronto),
Ministry of the Attorney General

Registration Details

Fee per Delegate

Full Day (Morning Sessions and Workshop): \$595 + TAX

Morning Sessions Only: \$395 + TAX

Online Replay (Morning Sessions only): \$395 + TAX

Fees include attendance, electronic program materials, technical support and 120-day access to the program archive (morning sessions only). Group discounts are available. Visit www.osgoodepd.ca/group-discounts for details. Please inquire about financial assistance.

Program Changes

We will make every effort to present the program as advertised, but it may be necessary to change the date, location, speakers or content with little or no notice. In the event of program cancellation, York University's and Osgoode Hall Law School's liability is limited to reimbursement of paid fees.

Cancellations and Substitutions

Substitution of registrants is permitted at any time. If you are unable to find a substitute, a full refund is available if a cancellation request is received in writing 14 days prior to the program date. If a cancellation request is made with less than 14 days notice, a \$75 administration fee will apply. No other refund is available.



OsgoodePD has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by the LSO.

Eligible CPD Hours - Full Day - LSO (ON): 6h 40m CPD (5h 55m Substantive; 45m Professionalism)



Morning Session Only - LSO (ON): 3h 25m CPD (2h 40m Substantive; 45m Professionalism)

OsgoodePD programs may be eligible for CPD/MCLE credits in other Canadian and US jurisdictions. To inquire about credit eligibility, please contact cpd@osgoode.yorku.ca.

“Excellent speakers and guests, well designed and full of relevant material. Thank you!”

Murray Martin, Investigator/Forensic Analyst, Ontario Provincial Police - Technological Crime Unit

“Very good content - all police officers need to know this information.”

Sgt. Beverly Zaporoz, Forensic Identification Training, Canadian Police College

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Email: osgoodepd@osgoode.yorku.ca



Phone: 416 597 9724



Mail: 1 Dundas Street West, 26th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z3

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