

Introduction to Cops in Court Video

Testifying in court can be a daunting task, not only for new police officers but also those who are experienced and seasoned. For those of you, who are just beginning your law enforcement career, the courtroom process can be imagined as a hugely intimidating experience. Even some veterans who are familiar with courtroom activities may become apprehensive if they haven't testified for a period of time. During recent conversations with a group of state prosecutors, a common concern that was voiced is "police officers need to be better equipped to take the stand and testify as effective and productive witnesses."

In response to this need, a team of Judicial Outreach Liaisons, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Liaisons from the NHTSA, Region 1 States came together to develop a virtual training. The goal of this training is to provide performance guidance to those needing help in the courtroom. In September of 2021 trainers at the National Traffic Law Center (NTLC) updated their full day, in person version of the existing "Cops in Court" training. The Region 1 training video is closely modeled on the NTLC "Cops in Court" video but is presented in a two-hour virtual format. Condensing this training and transforming it into a virtual setting enables a wider scope of availability. The following bullets provide a quick glimpse of the training's format and content.

- ❖ **Introduction** – Opening remarks and course goals.
- ❖ **Roles, Rules & Routines** – A description of the roles of courtroom participants. A discussion of fundamental courtroom rules. Provides an explanation of common courtroom routines.
- ❖ **Details, Details, Details-** How to recall the critical components of a detailed report. Explain the connection between the detailed report and trial testimony.
- ❖ **Direct Examination** – Describes what type of questions are asked by the prosecutor during direct examination. Answer questions asked by the prosecutor during direct examination. Review types of objections made during direct examination. Suggestions on how to react when objections occur.
- ❖ **Cross Examination** – Provides information regarding how to answer questions asked by the defense during cross.
- ❖ **Take the Stand/Conclusion** – A review of lessons learned, and skills developed during this training.

To access this free training please use the following link (copy and paste into your browser):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmZEwoYvVoc>

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