

Trial Advocacy Manual



About the Manual

This manual contains the National District Attorneys Association's (NDAA) Trial Advocacy method in a book form. The NDAA method has been taught in several different courses including Boot Camp, Trial Advocacy 1, Trial Advocacy 2, Cross-Examination, and the Career Prosecutor Course. This manual is intended to be a best practice guide for prosecutors at all levels of experience. It is the hope of the Committee that this book will be read cover-to-cover at the beginning of a prosecutor's career. Then, as one's career progresses, the manual can serve as a quick reference guide to review specific trial advocacy skills. We hope the manual will be well-read, the pages dog-eared, text underlined, and the margins note-filled. Use this book!

This manual is written for a national audience. Some of the advice and techniques may be too aggressive for some jurisdictions and not aggressive enough for other jurisdictions. The manual reflects advice and techniques which will be applicable to most situations confronted by prosecutors in the courtrooms of the country. However, some of the advice and techniques may not be applicable or appropriate in your home jurisdiction. Your trial work must be appropriate for where you prosecute cases. Therefore, it is important for you to know the procedures, rules, and caselaw of your jurisdiction. Apply the advice and techniques which are permissible in your jurisdiction. When the advice and techniques presented in this manual conflict, feel free to adapt the advice and techniques in this manual to reflect your local practices.

As you read this manual, you will notice that the odd-numbered chapters use male pronouns and the even-numbered chapters use female pronouns. This construct reflects the gender diversity of our profession.

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