**Tips: Tab 9--Opening Statement Organization**

*(versus “how to give an opening statement”)*

- Keep a professional perspective on the case

-- Remember your initial impressions of the case

-- Remember how you explained the case to your spouse, mom, friend, or co-worker

-- Don’t make this too hard. You know the case and can tell the story

-- Keep the flow logical and simple enough to be understood upon first hearing the story

-- Don’t argue conclusions…because you don’t need to argue in opening. A good story is quite persuasive and respects the intelligence of the members to draw good conclusions

- Tell the story

-- Give enough details for the members to develop a picture and to understand the narrative of the case

- Ask for a murder board early enough

-- To feel no pressure for upcoming litigation

-- To incorporate suggestions (*e.g.*, word choice, add/cut material, change order or organization…this is where modules help)

-- To complete a major--yet achievable--piece of preparation early and move on to other litigation prep

… Don’t make this too hard. You know the case. You can tell the story. You can do this.