

# The Observation Template

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Matter: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Est: \_\_\_\_\_

## ISSUE & TEST

Core legal question:

Governing legal test (my wording):

↑ Articulate the test in your own words. This trains exam performance directly.

## ARGUMENT STRUCTURE

Opening roadmap:

Authority hierarchy (HCA / FCA / statute / policy):

↑ Not which case — which level of authority do they lead with?

## JUDICIAL INTERVENTION

Trigger:

Type (clarify / challenge / steer):

Counsel recovery quality:

## PERSUASION & APPLICATION

Strongest application moment:

Weakest moment:

What shifted energy:

## POST-HEARING (3 MIN MAX — WRITE IMMEDIATELY)

1. One technique to copy:

2. One structural insight: