

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:

Date: _____

Matter: _____

Set before entering. One question only.

Anything critical that fell outside your focus lens.