

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:

The Single-Focus Template

Court: _____

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TODAY'S FOCUS QUESTION

Set before entering. One question only.

OBSERVATIONS (THIS LENS ONLY)

SURPRISE / EXCEPTION

Anything critical that fell outside your focus lens.

DEBRIEF (5 MIN)

1. What pattern did I see?

 2. What was the exception?

 3. What would I test next time, or re-test in a different context?
