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IMPROVING THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Oral Advocacy

Themes:

- Developing strategies and techniques for effective oral argument.

Conversation Starters:

- How do you or members of your firm/organization prepare for oral argument? Examples may include:
 - Prioritizing the issues you want to raise during argument;
 - Outlining the most important facts or law in your case;
 - Being honest and responsive when asked questions;
 - Re-focusing on an issue you were addressing before being asked a question;
 - Having a conversation with the court, as opposed to reading from a script;
 - Managing your time.

Activities:

- Observe together arguments made in the local county or municipal courts and/or appellate courts.
- Observe the different styles of argument and discuss what was effective and ineffective.

Resources:

- Discuss what additional resources the mentor/mentee have found useful in their own practice.
- Review the suggestions and tips provided in the following articles:
 - [Jan M. Baker, Son of a Preacher Man – What Homiletics Can Teach Us About Oral Advocacy, 19 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 197 \(2011\).](#)
 - Hon. Danny J. Boggs, Appellate Advocacy from a Judge’s Perspective, ABA Young Lawyer Division e-Library.