20 TIPS TO MAKE YOU A MORE EFFECTIVE MAGISTRATES' COURT TRIAL ADVOCATE – THURSDAY 29th MAY 2025

PRESENTED BY COLIN BEAUMONT

HAVE A LOOK AT THE 20 TIPS THAT I SHALL DEAL WITH DURING THE HOUR

20 TIPS

1 – The golden rules concerning Examination-in-Chief

2 – The golden rules concerning Cross-Examination

3 – The golden rules concerning Re-Examination

4 – Making effective use of Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (a person being permitted to refresh their memory whilst giving evidence)

5 – The evidential proof taken from the client – how to use it during the trial

6 – The non-evidential proof of the client i.e. the stuff that you would not want the Magistrates' to see during the trial

7 – Compiling the list of questions that you are clearly going to ask the witness in advance of the trial

8 – Discussing with the client the precise nature of the defence – don't overcomplicate it – the KISS technique – 'keep it simple stupid!'

9 – The character of your client – what to do where any opposition to admissibility is simply futile

10 – Saying something in response to the opening speech of the prosecutor

11 – The 2 classic circumstances in which you just might consider making a submission of no case to answer and the test under the Criminal Procedure Rules 2020 (as amended)

12 – Have a mind to that which was written on the PET Form regarding the nature of your client's defence

13 – Seeking the consent of the court to attack the character of a non-defendant in the trial – this is a far from easy task! – the test and some examples of where you just might be successful

14 – Have a mind to that which was said by your client in the police station interview regarding the nature of your client's defence

15 – What to say when the prosecution are seeking adverse inferences at trial from the 'no comment' interview at the police station

16 – Circumstances in which you just might ask the court to permit the reading of the statement of your witness – see Section 114 (1) (d) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

17 – Things to think about when you are fully prepared for trial and turn up (as do all of the Crown witnesses) but there is no sign of your client!

18 – Dealing with hearsay during the trial – the things to mention in your closing speech

19 – The things you must tell a client who is reluctant to testify at trial

20 – Keeping an eye on the burden and standard of proof and the party bearing the burden at the various stages of a criminal trial – more complicated and involved than you would think.

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