

Preparing Your MV Crash Case for Trial

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: The File Arrives On Your Desk	
The report – the first look	7
The witness statements	10
The “To Do” List.....	11
Check for mechanical problems	12
Obtain information from the EDR	13
Obtain information from the EDR.....	11
Video evidence	16
Digital evidence	17
Proof of operation	18
CHAPTER 2: Reviewing the reconstruction report	
Understanding the technical information.....	21
Identifying defense attack points.....	21
the use of an average value	21
the use of a range of values	24
the accuracy of a measured value.....	24
the use of a published treatise.....	25
The need for additional investigation	26
Scrutinize your report.....	27
CHAPTER 3: Getting ready for trial	
Preparing your expert for trial.....	29
The importance of primacy.....	31
Credibility: how to build it	32
Qualifying the witness	34
Don’t forget the CSI effect.....	36
Less math is the best math	41
Specific things you can tell your witness.....	46
CHAPTER 4: Cross Examining the Defense Expert	
General observations and comments	49
Your own expert should help you prepare.....	52
Don’t overlook concessions	55
APPENDICES	
“Discouraging the Dubious Mechanical Failure Defense”	59
Defense attacks on the State’s witness	62
Personal notes on cross examination	64
Defense expert concessions.....	65
Examining Adverse Expert Witnesses	67