

The Benefits of Transcript Summaries

A concise and well-articulated transcript summary is one of the most valuable tools a litigator can possess. Yet with case deadlines and limited resources, many law firms and in-house legal departments do not have time to comb through and summarize lengthy transcripts. At Legal Discovery Experts, we set the benchmark in quality summaries, providing a clear and comprehensive synopsis of deposition testimony, hearing transcripts, arbitration/trial transcripts, and other voluminous documents.

Among other things, the benefits of utilizing Legal Discovery Experts for transcript summaries include the following:

- The client saves an appreciable amount of money by outsourcing to a qualified legal support service. For example, it takes a paralegal or junior attorney an average of 8-10 hours to summarize a 200-page deposition, thus costing the client at least \$1600. The cost the client must bear is even higher if it retains a large or prestigious firm. In comparison, this 200-page transcript will be summarized for \$500 at Legal Discovery Experts.
- Transcripts are summarized with greater speed and efficiency, for it is our business to draft a succinct and well-articulated synopsis. Summaries are guaranteed to be prepared within 7-10 business days, however in most cases the turnaround time is much quicker, regardless of the project size. All summarizers have been hand-selected among a significant talent pool and put through rigorous training to guarantee superior work product. Moreover, all summaries that are not drafted by the company's two founding attorneys will be proofed by these principals to ensure the highest quality work product.
- Outsourcing transcripts enables junior attorneys, paralegals and staff to focus on other critical matters, such as motion work, case strategy, and trial preparation.
- Outsourcing transcripts saves senior attorneys significant time, for transcript summaries condense testimony to the key facts. Although the transcript-to-summary ratio naturally depends upon the subject matter at hand, the average summary ratio is 10:1 (i.e. a 100-page transcript will be condensed to approximately 10 pages). Accordingly, these summaries allow the reader to quickly spot a relevant section of testimony. As all summaries have references to the page and line numbers in the original transcript, the reader can easily consult the corresponding portion of the original transcript if so desired.
- Transcript summaries provide a cost-effective means for experts to review witness testimony.
- Transcript summaries are an excellent method of refreshing the recollection of your witness prior to trial.
- Transcript summaries should serve as a key document used for trial preparation. Our default summary format provides a topic column, making it easy for your legal team to quickly organize all the facts necessary for the big day in court.

Furthermore, courts recognize the benefits of introducing summaries into evidence at trial. By way of example, in a Court Comment to Rule 32 of Arizona's Rules of Civil Procedure, it is noted, in part:

The verbatim reading of deposition transcripts at trial can be a tedious exercise for the jury that greatly reduces juror comprehension and attention. Deposition summaries are an effective means of giving a jury the information contained in deposition transcripts in an understandable and abbreviated form. [Federal Rule of Evidence 1006] already encourages the use of summaries of documents that 'cannot be conveniently examined in court.'

Parties are encouraged to agree upon and use a concise deposition summary instead of a verbatim reading of a deposition transcript. When considered necessary for jury comprehension or an efficient trial, the court may require the use of deposition summaries. . .

For further information regarding transcript summaries or our unique qualifications, please contact a Legal Discovery Experts representative at info@legaldiscoveryexperts.com.