

## Best Practices for Attorneys Participating in Realtime Depositions

Technology has introduced a number of great [litigation support](#) tools over the past decade, but arguably the innovation that offers the most value for attorneys is the use of realtime [depositions](#). Lawyers who use realtime [court reporting](#) realize a number of important benefits from the service, including:

- Immediate access to proceedings, as well as rough drafts
- Realtime internet streaming of legal proceedings
- Increased ability to search and annotate text as it happens.
- Easy accessibility for the hearing-impaired
- The ability to add and edit notes during depositions

However, with any new technology, there is a learning curve to get past before the attorney can properly use the realtime court reporting to maximize their efficiency. Here are a few "best practice" tips for the attorney to consider:

### Proper Preparation

Before using a realtime court reporting system, take some time to load the software program and become familiar with the set-up. Ensure that you have all of the hardware necessary, from a laptop that has the memory necessary for realtime use to the cables required for connecting to the court reporter's stenographic machine. Take a little bit of time to become comfortable with the user interface, so that when you need to make notes, or highlight segments of the transcript, you won't be fumbling around trying to remember which button to click.

### Loading Unique Words

Every case has specific words and terms that can sometimes trip up [court reporters](#). Difficult last names, locations and technical terminology can cause misspellings in the transcript, which can severely inhibit the attorney's ability to search through the transcript for those terms while the depositions are in progress. By providing a word list to your realtime court reporter, preferably well ahead of the court proceedings, you increase the overall accuracy of the deposition transcript. Your court reporter will definitely appreciate the extra effort on your part.

### Imagine the Possibilities

Attorneys using realtime court reporting for the first time rarely capitalize on all the various features and advantages these online [litigation services](#) can provide. Are other members of your legal team in remote locations? Could streaming those depositions to the offsite team members make them more efficient in their case-related tasks? By taking the time to review all of those realtime options and benefits, you stand a better chance of getting the most out of them.

Realtime depositions can go a long way toward saving the attorney time and money, plus allow for the greatest chance of providing better service to the client. By taking some time to review and become familiar with the technology and the best way to use it, an attorney can perform their duties at the highest level possible every time.

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