



Brendan Navin Siva <brendan@brendansiva.com>

[Lawyers Talk:6524] Advocacy Training Course : Journey of a reluctant participant to an advocate

Darren Lai <dlai7my@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: dlai7my@hotmail.com
To: lawyerstalk@googlegroups.com

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Dear all,

Late Friday night, 7th October 2011 was the time when it dawned upon me that the dreadful Advocacy Training Course was about to begin on the morning of 8th October 2011, **Saturday** and will continue on the 9th October 2011, **Sunday**. I looked at the materials provided and nearly fainted. There goes my weekend, I grumbled.

Morning 8th October 2011, the alarm went off at 7.30am and I dragged myself out of bed, on to the car, and eventually reached the KL court complex. I looked like a zombie, according to one of my colleagues. Yeah, was playing futsal till 1 last night, came my reply.

As I went through the preliminary briefing, I thought, is it necessary for me to attend this course? I've already a few trials and hearings under my belt...grumble grumble grumble...

Then, the sessions started. How wrong I was! My first session of examining in chief went awry, the cross examination worst. I was all over the place, I was not prepared. Humiliation time, I thought.

The trainers, however, did not humiliate me as I thought they would. Instead, they pointed out the mistakes I made, and guided me with their demonstrations. It was actually refreshing to hear the "criticism".

Moving on, fearing looking like a fool under video recording, I must say that I am wrong again. The video reviews were an excellent way to reflect on my demeanour, eye contact, pose and voice projection standing up in court. Buoyed by the new found enthusiasm, I vowed to return better the next day, and I did.

Those who have not attended the course (especially junior lawyers), I strongly encourage you to register, as the course will only do good to you. Do not worry about being inexperienced and stage fright, go and humiliate yourself, let it be, trust me, end of the day, you will come out of the course, more experienced and ready. Anyway, the trainers (judges and senior counsels) conduct the training on a pro bono basis, so grab the opportunity and gain the most from it. I know I did.

Kind regards,

Darren Lai

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