



FDCC E-Newsletter

News from and about your fellow members and friends.

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Trial Tactics, Practice And Procedures

Don't Hold The Reigns So Tight

If you are reading this, chances are you have already

traveled the road of success. Do you remember how you got here? I just read about a case where a very good Houston law firm obtained a multi-million dollar verdict for its business client. The lead lawyer describing the trial mentioned they had hired a brand-new lawyer, who had only been with the firm two months, when she was assigned to assist with the trial. The young associate was given the responsibility of presenting the client's damages expert. The jury ultimately returned a favorable verdict that included 100% of the damages the young associate had put on through the expert. The young associate had done so well on her direct examination that the partner in charge of the case decided to let her argue the damages portion of the case to the jury. Many of you got to where you are by being given the same opportunity that young associate was given. How many of you today are giving your young associates the same opportunities? There are lots of articles questioning where the next trial lawyers are going to come from. If we don't give them a helping hand by giving them the same kind of opportunities that we had, then we become part of the problem and not the solution. In some firms, litigation cases have diminished over the years and partners might be tempted to hold those cases tight and close. Let me suggest that you loosen up on the reigns and give the young lawyers the opportunity to prove to you that you were right when you took a chance and hired them. Good luck!