

THE EVIDENCE REPORT

Vol. 3 No. 7

OCT 2006

Hal Copeland, Editor

Ask the Litigation Graphics Team

Q: Can you tell me which type of graphics to use for my case?

A: Yes. There are advantages for each.

Q: Why poster boards?

A: A poster on an easel can remain in view all day or throughout the trial, mediation or settlement.

Poster “anchor boards” hold the key points of the case, often as a timeline, and may be referenced repeatedly. Enlarged color photos and documents, maps and diagrams, as well as medical or other technical illustrations serve well. Make them interactive with magnets, overlays or erasable markers.

Q: When should we consider 3-D animations?

A: For reenactments, a tour of facilities, for instructive tutorials or to illustrate technical expert testimony.



Q: How about interactive computer graphics?

A: These include 360° panoramic photos, Flash graphics, .PDF files and PowerPoint. When skillfully designed, all can translate verbal arguments into visual reality.

Q: Do you ever use still photos?

A: Yes. A photograph, in color or black and white, can deliver powerful evidence.

Q: What can video do for the case?

A: Video can closely recapture the facts and feelings of an actual event, in the manner of a television documentary. Your video can tell an entire life story, show a day in the life of a person or take you to a location. Including interviews and deposition excerpts can add to their credibility.

Q: What should we do first?

A: A planning session at **Litigation Graphics** will help you determine the most effective visual strategy to win your case.

Litigation Graphics SM

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Profiles in Law: Werner A. Powers



Werner A. Powers, partner and senior trial attorney at Haynes and Boone, LLP, once caught a major insurance company “red handed.”

In a suit against Allstate Insurance regarding theft of corporate opportunities, a closing electronic projection showed the “good hands of Allstate” turning red. The plaintiff was victorious.



Characterized by friends as an “innovative litigator with a dramatic flair in the courtroom,” Mr. Powers was a magna cum laude graduate of SMU. He moved on to the University of Texas Law School, Austin, receiving his J.D. with honors and membership in the Order of the Coif. He has been with Haynes and Boone for 26 years.

“Half of our lawyers are litigators, with cases that include defense of commercial disputes, antitrust, securities and RICO,” Mr. Powers noted.

Profiles continued on page 2.



Words from the Wise

“To be thrown upon one’s resources is to be cast into the very lap of fortune, for our faculties then undergo a development and display an energy of which they were previously unsusceptible.” — Benjamin Franklin

“Before you begin a thing, remind yourself that difficulties and delays quite impossible to foresee are ahead ... You can only see one thing clearly, and that is your goal. Form a mental vision of that and cling to it through thick and thin.”

— Kathleen Norris

“Difficulties should act as a tonic. They should spur us to greater exertion.” — B.C. Forbes

Demonstrative Evidence Must Be:

Relevant: Is it germane to the case?

Cumulative: Does it add anything to the expert’s oral testimony?

Unprejudicial: Will it unnecessarily inflame the jury?

A fair and accurate representation: Has the proper foundation been laid for its admission?

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Profiles in Law

continued from page 1.

How can graphics help a litigator? “Graphics can simplify the most complex argument and hold the jury’s attention,” the attorney declared. “They can convey a theme or concept that would take too many words to describe.”

“Marsha Drebelbis is very creative,” he added. “When working with **Litigation Graphics**, I like to build a wall of proof, step by step, using a mix of visual media and techniques.”

Haynes and Boone is listed by the *Dallas Business Journal* as Dallas’ largest law firm, ranked by the number of local lawyers (242). The firm also has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Mexico City.

Werner Powers’ thoughts on the law profession? “I would like to see greater trust in the jury system and the tort reform modified.” ≈

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A newsletter published by

