

Witness Research

This is a dreaded group project. You have been assigned to a group. Within your group, one of you has been assigned as group leader and will submit the final memo.

I would like you to conduct your individual research, then as a group compare your research, decide what information is relevant and important, and prepare a memo to upload. You should focus on minimizing duplicated information and including new information. For example, everyone will be able to find the witness' address or employment information. But only some of you may find a prior name, associates, etc. Your group should collaborate at least once to review the information and decide what information should be included.

Your witness is Deana Waters, an instructor with the local paralegal program, who was shopping at Monroe's on the day in question and witnessed Kester's fall. Draft a very short memo (about a page) in standard memorandum format (To:, From:, Re:, Date:) summarizing the results of your research and providing contact information for the witness (home, not work). Give your opinion on how this witness would present if called to testify and whether the witness should be further examined. Extra credit points will be given if you identify any of the witness's former name(s).

Tips and Hints

- Do NOT pay for any searches.
- Please look at the resources listed in the lecture as well as performing a general "Google" search of the witness.
- Please list the URL or website where you found the information in your memo.

Make some effort to do more than summarize what Google reports. Try to make connections and dig deeper for more obscure information. How does this information relate to the witness's credibility or reliability? Is there information about the witness that would make her testimony believable to a jury?