

# CROSS EXAMINATION OF HOSTILE WITNESSES

*Presented By:*

**DAVID J. BECK**, *Houston*  
Beck Redden, LLP

**JOHN F. NICHOLS, SR.**, *Houston*  
Nichols Law

**PAULA SWEENEY**, *Dallas*  
Slack & Davis, LLP

*Written By:*

**TRANG Q. TRAN**  
**ANDREW H. IWATA**  
Tran Law Firm, LLP

State Bar of Texas  
**ADVANCED TRIAL STRATEGIES**  
February 13-14, 2014  
New Orleans

## CHAPTER 8.3

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS WHILE DEPOSING AN ADVERSE WITNESS .....	1
A. The Law Discourages Speaking Objections and Instructions Not to Answer.....	1
B. The Courts Disagree on the Subject of Witness Coaching During a Deposition. ....	1
C. Strategies for Dealing with Witness Coaching as the Deposing Attorney. ....	2
D. Legal Remedies for Obstructionist Tactics.....	3
E. Strategies for Discouraging Obstructionist Tactics. ....	3
II. SPECIAL PROBLEMS POSED BY DEPOSITIONS OF AN ADVERSE CORPORATION.....	4
III. PREVENTING THE HOSTILE WITNESS FROM TAKING BACK ADMISSIONS.....	5
A. Taking Back Admissions in Errata Sheets.....	5
B. Taking Back Admissions in a Later Sworn Statement. ....	5
IV. PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEPOSING ATTORNEY.....	6