



Early in my career, I thought depositions were about showing everyone how tough I was. I'd walk in ready for battle...

Aggressive questions. Confrontational tone. Making sure the other side knew I wasn't backing down.

Sometimes it worked.

But more often than not, it backfired.

I learned that lesson the hard way during a deposition with an elderly witness who had seen our client's accident. She was a sweet grandmother who genuinely wanted to help, but she was nervous and clearly intimidated by the whole legal process.

The opposing attorney came out swinging.

He asked rapid fire questions and challenged her memory of the accident. He pressed her on every tiny detail. It felt less like a conversation and more like she was the one being put on trial.

By the end of the deposition, that helpful witness was so flustered and defensive that her testimony had almost no value at all.

Instead of getting to the truth, the aggressive approach had turned a cooperative witness into someone who just wanted to get out of the room.

That day I learned something important: Depositions aren't about domination. They're about discovery.

My job isn't to intimidate people. My job is to get the truth.

And most of the time, the best way to do that is by treating people with respect, making them comfortable enough to tell their story, and asking questions rather than attacking them.

One example is a serious case we were handling in North Carolina.

My client had suffered life-changing injuries that affected nearly every part of his life—his ability to work, to provide for his family, even to do simple everyday things most of us take for granted.

The deposition lasted for hours.

The defense attorneys grilled my client about everything: his injuries, his treatment, his limitations, the long road ahead of him. Standard deposition questions, but incredibly difficult stuff to relive.

When it finally ended and we were packing up, my client did something unusual. He asked if he could speak directly to the defendant.

This wasn't planned. I hadn't coached him. I had no idea what he was about to say.

He looked across the table and said, "I want you to know that I forgive you. I know you didn't mean for this to happen. I know you have to live with this too. And I forgive you."

The room went completely silent.

I've been in hundreds of depositions. I've seen aggressive tactics, clever legal maneuvering, and dramatic courtroom moments.

But I've never seen anything as powerful as authentic grace and forgiveness in the face of real suffering.

The defendant broke down. The opposing attorneys were speechless. And everyone in that room was reminded of something easy to forget in the legal world.

Behind every case file, every deposition, and every legal argument...

There are real human beings dealing with real consequences.

That moment didn't change the legal merits of the case.

But it changed something inside of everyone who witnessed it.

I'm proud to say my deposition strategy isn't about being on the attack. It's about getting to the truth with dignity.

I'll proudly represent you or anyone else in the Lowcountry who needs a personal injury attorney. You can reach out directly at westlawfirmssc.com

Talk soon,

Mason