

Court Notes Program



What we're covering

- Goals and structure of notetaking program
- Step by step
 - Getting ready
 - Notetaking
 - Sharing notes
- Tips and Tricks
- Background on this hearing



Goals and structure



Intended audience

- Defendants and attorneys
 - It's hard for them to know what happened in court. The more info, the better!
- Media and social media people
- Campaigns and strategy
 - Important to have a sense of what's happening in court
- Supporters of defendants

**DFW SUPPORT
COMMITTEE**

1. Your Name

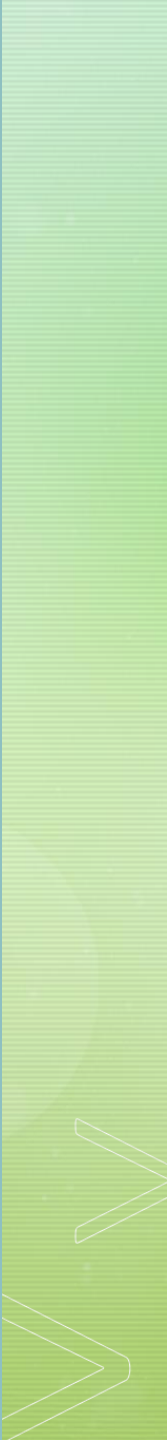
2. Email

Overall Structure

- Share your contact info (email and signal username or phone number) via form
- Sign up for shifts (2 morning, 2 afternoon, 2 transcribers)
- Notetakers send notes to coordinating email, which sends to transcribers
- Notes and transcriptions shared with team



How will it happen?

- We are looking for handwritten notes that are neat and as close to verbatim as possible
 - Notetakers scan using a phone app like GeniusScan and send to coordinating email
 - Transcribers transcribe the notes and send back to coordinating email.
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The background is a dark, textured surface. It features several 3D diamond-shaped objects, some in light gray and one in orange, arranged in a diagonal line. Faint dashed lines form a grid pattern across the background. In the bottom right corner, there are white line-art geometric shapes, including a large 'V' and a 'Z' shape.

Step by step
instructions

Before you show up

- Get the best grip on the case you can
 - Legal proceedings can be confusing. The more prepared you are the better
- Make sure you have supplies for the day of, know how to get to the courthouse, how parking and security work, etc.
- Make sure you have a working scanner app
- Check your email the evening before, and
 - Confirm that you'll make it
 - Review and maybe print the update abbreviations sheet
 - Make sure court is still happening

Showing up to court

- Bring multiple writing utensils and things to write on – legal pads work great (it's like this is what they're made for!)
- You (likely) won't be able to use electronics in the courtroom or even bring phones into the courthouse
- Don't bring contraband!
- Try to find other notetakers and supporters – it builds community and you can check for key points you might have missed later!

Taking notes (more on this later)

- Take notes the whole time, to the extent possible
- The more you capture the more info everyone else will have to work with
- Be sure to :
 - UNDERLINE decisions and dates
 - ***Star*** juicy quotes (Try to get them word for word!)

After Court

- If possible, connect with friendly people
 - Make sure you share an understanding of what happened,
 - Did the judge make rulings? What were they? Will the judge make a ruling later?
 - When are the parties are next expected in court?
 - If defense counsel is friendly and can help you understand, that's great!
- If any of these key points are confusing to you and the defense attorney isn't available, you can try asking the court clerk.

Summary Email

- While still in court or immediately after, send an email with
 - Your scanned notes (using an app like GeniusScan)
 - Decisions/rulings (made in court or promised for later)
 - Juicy quotes
 - Any reflections or incidents
- Better to just send notes if you can't compose the email in a timely manner



Tips and Tricks



Preliminary hearings

- Preliminary hearings can be more challenging for notetaking than trials
- Instead of presenting information to laypeople, lawyers are mostly talking to one another
- It's often a continuation of a conversation that's been happening in motions
- You can focus on the judge
- Also, state court can be more challenging than federal – sometimes attorneys are given less of a chance to argue their motions, so it's harder to understand what's happening

‘As close to verbatim as possible’?

- Insight for attorneys
 - Writing down words that don't make sense is useful – might make sense to other people using the notes. Case names and other legal terms may fly back and forth
 - Especially useful
- Direct exams can be very scripted, officers may answer precisely
- Let everyone know how the state is thinking about the case
- Not inadvertently making assumptions
- Seeing allegations ahead of time helps attorneys and media people prepare

Efficiency and Readability

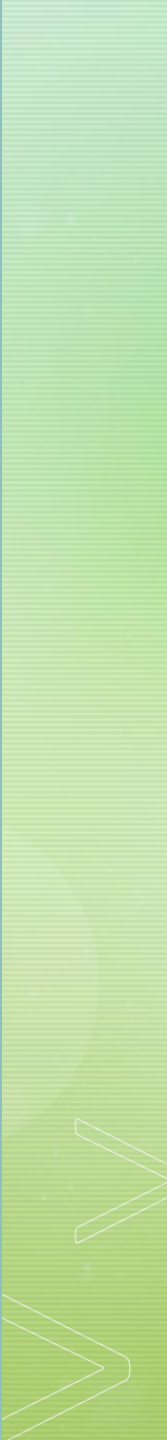
- Abbreviations are key! We're hoping to send out a cheat sheet with terms that will come up repeatedly, like the charges
- In a single defendant case, it's useful to use
 - π for the prosecution
 - Δ (delta) for the defendant/defense attorney
 - J for the judge
- Add periodic timestamps every half hour or so to line up notes and help people stay oriented
- If you use your own abbreviations, add a key to your notes and we can update the cheatsheet

Court Decorum

- Wear something decent – business casual or clean jeans and shirt
- Situational awareness
 - Media, surveillance, harassment
- Don't talk to jurors
 - especially not about the case
 - keep any incidental interaction e.g. dropped pen minimal

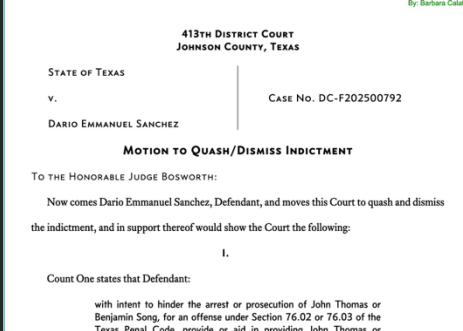


This specific
hearing



Key info

- Date: Jan 8
- Trial Date: Jan 12
- Defense attorneys are Frank Sellers, Dustin Hoffman, and McCall Hoops
- Defendant Dario Sanchez
- Judge Bosworth
- Charges:
 - Hindering the prosecution of terrorism
 - Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence
- At least two motions will be argued



Motion to dismiss the indictment

- No notice
 - Notice is important for a criminal proceeding. This indictment doesn't specify if the crime is a felony or misdemeanor (The district court has exclusive jurisdiction on felony cases, cases involving title to land, and election contest cases.)
 - The statute is internally referential
 - The indictment has to say *on the face of it* what it's charging
- No Jurisdiction
 - If it could be a misdemeanor the judge has no jurisdiction (different court would)
- No ***physical*** evidence tampered with
 - Chat logs are noncorporeal

Second Motion to Compel State to Comply with its Discovery Obligations

- Defendant has filed 5 requests for discovery
- State has only provided 104 pages of pdf – no digital media or anything
- “Prayer”
 - Either compel the court to provide discovery and if they don’t exclude it at trial
 - Or hold them in contempt



Key Links

- [Contact form](#)
- [Shift Signup](#)
- [Motions for Sanchez Case](#)
- [Abbreviations list](#)