

## BOOK REVIEW

James G. Zimmerly,<sup>1</sup> M.D., J.D., M.P.H., LL.D.(Hon.)

### Review of Under Oath, Tips for Testifying

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**REFERENCE:** Isele WP. Under oath. Tips for testifying. LRP Publications, Horsham PA, 1999, \$19.95

Under Oath is not a comprehensive text but rather a brief guidebook (43 pages). Each of the eight chapters and three appendices is clear, concise, and organized. Chapter One addresses "Discovery and Pretrial matters" including depositions. It should be studied by any health care provider facing their first appearance at trial. Chapter Two explains the "Subpoena." Chapter Three is loaded with examples of various personality types among lawyers, ranging from Mr. Rogers to Ghengis Khan, and several types in between. The author gives sage advice on responding to the cross examination directed by all of these characters. Chapter Four, on "Direct and Cross Examination" advises the reader on how to respond to the usual questions.

Chapter Five, on overview of "Professional Liability" is just that, a brief overview. Chapter Six on "Informed Consent" and Chapter Seven on "Patient Confidentially" are brief, accurate and balanced. Chapter Eight deals with "Claims Prevention" for the health care provider.

Appendix A is a list of "Isele's 12 Rules for Health Care Professionals Who Testify." Good common sense advice that expert witnesses need to heed lest they waste the time and money of the side that called them.

Appendix B is a "Sample Consent Form for Medical Treatment" and Appendix C is a "Sample Consent Form for Release of Records."

The last few chapters and appendices expand the book beyond Tips for Testifying but are appropriate for a brief guide book directed at the novice health care professional. The book is cheap at the price and easy to follow. Read it and look forward to your first courtroom appearance. Follow Isele's suggestions and the jury will think you just descended from Mt. Olympus, all the while the cross examining attorney is trying to make you appear to have just oozed out of a swamp.

<sup>1</sup>Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC.