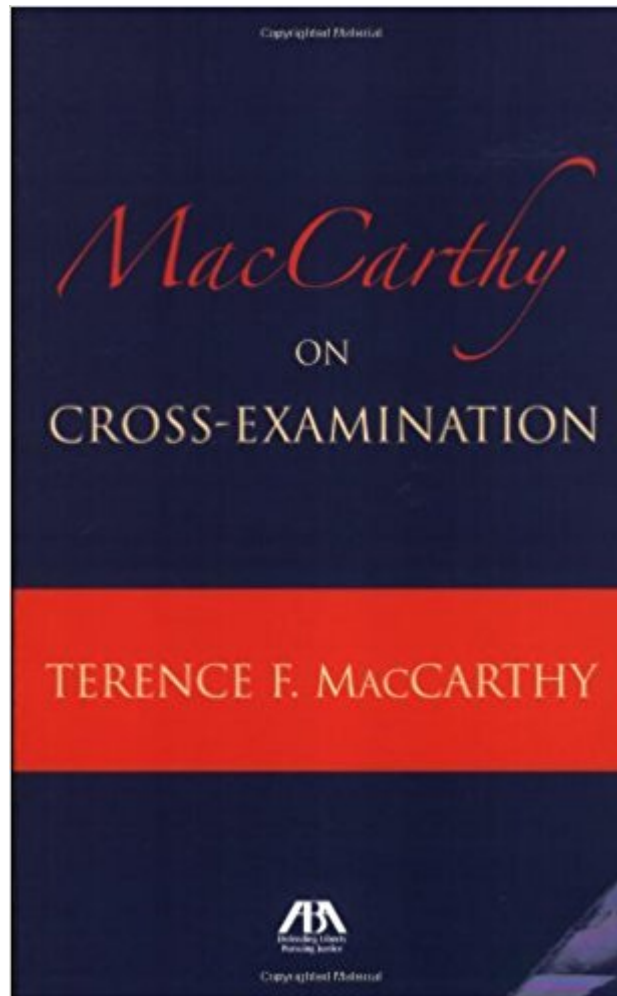




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MacCarthy On Cross Examination



Synopsis

Learn how to look good on cross, even when the witness is not cooperating. Learn how to manage and effectively minimize the witness's involvement, without appearing controlling, extracting, and insulting. Filled with illustrative cross examinations from actual cases, this book is your key to employing these proven techniques in your own practice. Using the three themes that run through out the book—looking good, telling a story, and using short statements—you can take control of your cross examinations and achieve the results you desire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Terence F. MacCarthy, Esquire graduated at the top of his class from St. Joseph's College in 1955. After serving as a Lieutenant in the Marines, he attended law school at DePaul, graduating again in the top ten percent of his class in 1960. Since 1966, he has been the Executive Director of the Federal Defender Programme in the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He was selected for the position by the judges of the District Court and the deans of the six Chicago law schools.

Cross-Examination is one of those things that many lawyers regard as an art. Exactly what to ask a witness or how to handle a difficult witness on the stand? This book is a great guide for any attorney who wants to sharpen his or her cross-examination skills. I also own a copy of "Cross-examination: Science and Techniques by Larry S. Pozner and Roger J. Dodd" I paid a few hundred dollars for it. I have yet to finish reading it. This book by MacCarthy gives you all the information you need, in less

time, and for less money. I would recommend this book first, before the Pozner and Dodd book.

This is the best practical book on cross examination I have read. I have read and enjoyed Wellman's Art of Cross Examination, but it has little practical application. This system is exciting and I will use it in the next two weeks. I have been practicing criminal law for 40 years.

Since 1900, there have been three big names in the field of cross-examination: Francis L. Wellman, Irving Younger, and Terence MacCarthy. I've read what the first two have to offer. MacCarthy is the real deal. Follow his method to control the witness, get the answers you want, and look like a nice guy (or gal) all at the same time.

BUY THIS BOOK IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY CONDUCT A CROSS-EXAMINATION!(1) MacCarthy's approach to cross-examination is practical and it makes sense!(2) The book is written in a way that explains his method clearly.(3) The end of the book includes multiple transcripts of lawyers using the "MacCarthy" method of cross-examination.What more could you ask for?!

I've been a lawyer for over 30 years, and done the usual circuit - NITA, a short Jerry Spence course, the excellent Texas Crim. Defense Lawyers trial college, and lots of other courses. I learned from all of them. I was fortunate to stumble across Mr. MacCarthy's book about a year ago. I had my first opportunity to apply its lessons in a criminal trial this week. Instead of the usual approach to cross, trying to pin the witnesses down, catch them in lies and embarrass them, have a running battle and so on, I used MacCarthy's method. First, I had a coherent story and theme that I hammered from voir dire through closing. Then, all my questions related to that theme. Third, I didn't really ask questions - I made statements, that generally elicited a one word answer, usually "yes." One witness, who claimed my client threatened him with a large knife, was an ex-con, who objected to how I was not asking questions but making statements. So, I just made the same statement and added one word, "right?" He got so mad that he had a melt down, then tried to stare me down with the evil eye, which in closing I told the jury he learned in prison.Long story short - my client was looking at a potential life sentence. After the jury had been out over 3 hours, the DA offered a plea deal - 3 yrs deferred adjudication. I believe using MacCarthy's techniques achieved one of his primary goals - for the lawyer to "look good." And the witnesses to "look bad."The only reason I'm not giving this book five stars is that I hate the metaphor that the author uses of "punishing the

puppy," hitting it on the nose with a rolled up newspaper. I'm a dog lover and I cringe every time I read that. I hope in future editions he'll come up with another metaphor.

One of the single best books I've read on the subject.

This is a great system and a very enjoyable read. Absolutely recommend. Made me better

This is a must have book for any attorney who wishes to engage in trial work in either the civil or criminal theater. This is not a war-story book, as most books in this area tend to be, although several transcripts are provided at the end of the book as an appendix to show how a good cross examination takes place. This book is a practical, down to earth, easy to read guide for attorneys. Whether you have done a hundred trials, or none at all, you will totally re-think your approach to cross-examination. MacCarthy examines why attorneys generally are not any good at cross-examination-because cross-examination is taught by law school evidence teachers who generally don't know a thing about trials (that's why they are law professors-they weren't any good practicing law). Unfortunately, MacCarthy still thinks that law-school has some relevance in making a good lawyer, this does not take away from the revolutionary ideas contained in the book. Many law-schools still use Irving Younger's 10 commandments of cross-examination. Younger's ideas have been thoroughly discredited in the last 30 years (and are ridiculed as nonsense by MacCarthy), but the law-schools in this country (as usual) have yet to catch up. Irving Younger professed in lectures on the 10 commandments of cross-examination that a practitioner needed to try at least 25 cases before being competent as a cross-examiner. This begs the question, what do you do for the first 25 cases? Indeed, today there are practitioners who will never try 25 cases, especially in the civil arena. MacCarthy comes to the rescue and provides an objective, and rational system that can be put to use immediately. He is thorough, and knows his subject inside and out, but he does not become tedious or school marmish. He lets the practitioner know how and why we cross-examine witnesses. The book is empowering for the new practitioner because its lessons can be put to work immediately. I am sorry to see that Mr. MacCarthy has retired from the Chicago Federal Public Defender. However, I hope Mr. MacCarthy continues to write and lecture on trial advocacy.

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