



WWJD<sup>2</sup>

The logo features the text "WWJD" in a stylized, white, italicized font with a gold outline. A superscript "2" is positioned above the "J". The text is centered over a large, three-dimensional, gold-colored Star of David. The background is a dark blue space scene with stars and a nebula.

A PROFESSIONALISM PRIMER

As you prepare for and go to court,  
ask yourself the following questions  
so you, as an attorney, can  
“live long, and prosper.”

1. What should I check when preparing the pleadings?

- Local rules of procedure.

## 2. How can I make a good first impression?

- Be honest with the facts and the law... don't bloviate!
- The pleadings & briefs are the first time the judge gets any familiarity with you - don't waste it!
- Have someone else proof read your work before filing.
- \*Treat every member of the court staff with the same respect and dignity that you do the Judge.

**AVOID BURYING THE**

**COURT WITH TRIBBLE.**



### 3. What should I consider when writing and/or arguing pre-trial procedures and dispositive motions?

- Check grammar and spelling.
- Arguments should be in logical order.
- Skip extraneous things.
- Pay attention to page number and time limits.
- Consider if the Judge will want a complete background or wants to skip to the issue(s).

4. When should I arrive at the courthouse?



4. When should I arrive at the courthouse?

- EARLY!
- Cellphone = OFF

## 5. What is my game plan at the podium?

- Exude confidence and reliability...be credible.
- No negative body language.
- No gum, candy, or food... Leave the water bottle at the table.
- Know the Judge's pet peeves.
  - Judge Robinson has published his... It's a two-volume set!

6. At the podium, what will the Judge notice?

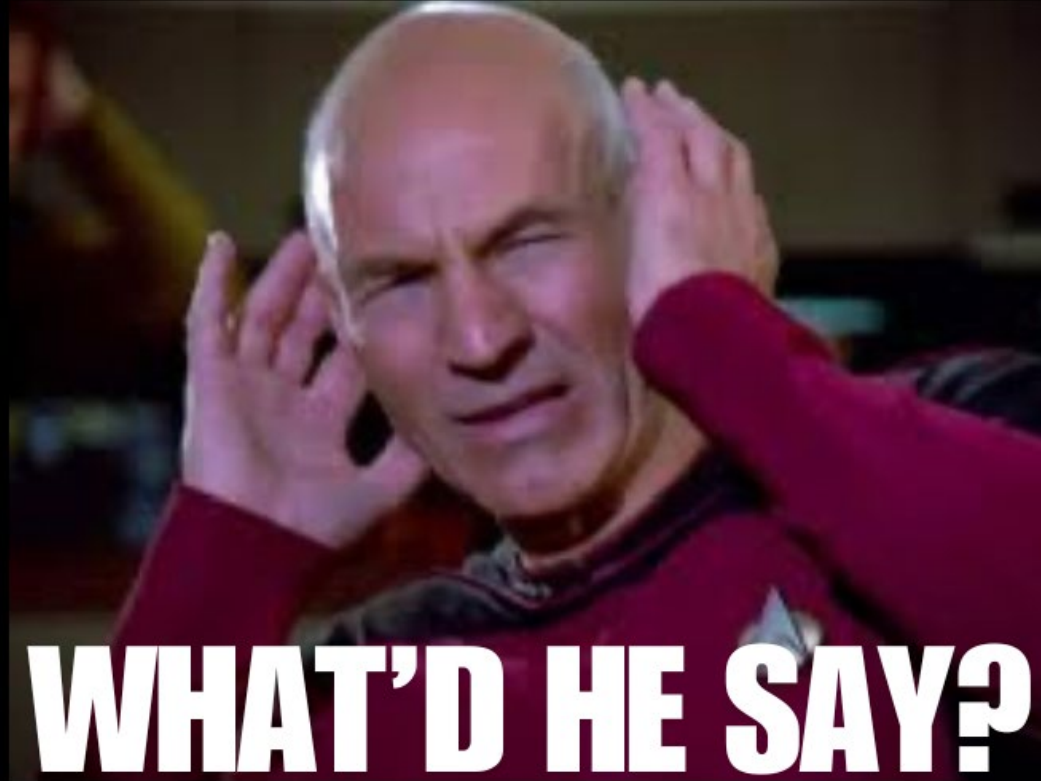
- My face... Smile & make eye contact.
- My attire-the Court should be focused on your argument, not what you are wearing.
  - Your attire should give the impression of competence, trustworthiness, and believability...NOT messiness or sloppiness.
- This rule applies to your client as well! No "Death To The Federation" t-shirts allowed!



**PROPER COURT ATTIRE?**

# 7. How do I start my case, and who do I address?

- Begin with, "May it please the Court, I am Spock, and I represent the USS Enterprise."
- Speak directly to the Trier of Fact.
  - The factfinder is the most important person in the room. Talk to them...not opposing counsel.
- Use a SLOW and CLEAR tone of voice.
  - Speak up, but don't shout... unless Judge Stephens is on the bench, then you will need to shout!



## 8. Can I rely on my notes or brief when making my argument?

- Yes.
- BUT...don't restate your brief.
  - Listen to what is taking place and make a presentation that engages the Judge.
  - Anticipate questions and have answers ready.
- Remember the purpose of a trial...
  - TO PROVE THE FACTS.
    - Organize your case, notes, and time to achieve your purpose.

9. I have finished my presentation..What do I do next?

- Ask the Court if it has any questions.
- When you sit down- pay attention!

10. I disagree with a ruling the Judge makes... What do I do?

- Never interrupt or talk over the Judge.
- Politely point it out... do NOT be combative.
  - And PUT IT IN THE RECORD!



**YOUR HONOR,**

**THAT IS TOTALLY ILLOGICAL.**

## Our Final Words of Wisdom...

- Every mistake is yours--not your law clerk, not your secretary, not even the dog who ate your brief.
- The buck stops with you. Blaming your staff reflects poorly on you and your firm.

