

# Um ...

We are sorry to have to tell you this, but ...  
no “celly phones” or “lappy tops” during lectures,  
demonstrations, and small group breakout sessions.



NCDC has a no cell phone / tablet / laptop policy during lectures, demonstrations, and small group breakout sessions for participants. We do this, because experience shows that in order to accomplish transformation (which is why you are here), it is important to be 100% plugged-in to interacting with each other and absorbing as much as possible of the lectures, demonstrations, and small group exercises. Although we know that many people have become accustomed to taking notes electronically, in this type of program, screen absorption can work against our goals. After all, emotion, intonation, body language, and even silence are as important as content to truly outstanding of trial presentations. During these next two and a half days, your attention and engagement are crucial not only to your own performance in the cross-examination exercises, but also to the other members of your group as you all attempt to use the techniques taught here to improve. We are all here to get better together, so please honor the policy and “trust the process.”

We understand that there may be times when you need to use electronic devices to present exhibits during the small group exercises. We have no problem with you using electronic devices and presentation software to present exhibits when it is feasible in your breakout rooms. However, you should not be reading your cross-examination questions from your phone, tablet, or laptop as you perform your crosses.

Do not worry. We absolutely appreciate that you have important and busy practices back home on behalf of clients who need you. (So do we -- and we love you for the work that you do.) We will make sure you have breaks to check emails and other messages. You will also have the lunch hour and the evenings to do this. If you have a medical or other important reason that you need an exception, please speak with Karen or Tasha. We will be glad to make accommodations when necessary.