



Consumer Law Attorney Dave Maxfield Uses MindMeister to Prepare for Depositions.

"Mind mapping is great for lawyers because it lets them collect information, organize it in a meaningful way and turn it into a compelling case to present in court."

Dave Maxfield, Attorney

At a Glance...

- ★ Collecting, organizing and presenting information - all within one platform
- ★ Searching maps for keywords and filtering for icons
- ★ 5-6 times faster recall through visual stimulation

Website

www.consumerlawsc.com

Dave Maxfield is the three-time Chairman of the Consumer Law section of the South Carolina Bar and a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association. For him, MindMeister has become an invaluable deposition tool.

"A lawyer's job basically consists of three things: gather information, organize it, and then use it to convince someone of your argument," Dave explains. "Mind mapping is a great tool for lawyers because it lets them do exactly those things with great efficiency."

With MindMeister, Dave is able to map an entire case from beginning to end within a single platform. "Over the course of a case I get tons of information, some important, some irrelevant. At first, I don't know how it all fits together, but that's OK because I can just add new pieces to my map as I go along and later come back to rearrange things. It's like a jig-saw puzzle that slowly takes shape."

Dave uses MindMeister to prepare for depositions. To visually represent his line of questioning, he notes down a question and lets all possible answers branch off from it, each again forming a new path. "There is no better way to map out all possible outcomes of a questioning," he says. After building the map in his browser, he links in document exhibits from his Dropbox folder using static URLs. "When I pull out my iPad at deposition to access the mind map, it looks exactly as I built it, with all the documents readily available to pop open in whatever app I choose. It's an incredibly easy and quick process and just works extremely well."

Why MindMeister?

"What I love about MindMeister is that, because everything is saved online, I can always access any information I need within seconds. It lets me search not only for keywords, but also filter for icons I have assigned to the topics. If for instance I quickly need to find all information regarding money transactions in a case, all I need to do is search for the respective icon and MindMeister will point out all topics featuring that particular icon to me. Besides that, it's fast, it looks good, has a clean interface and is uniform across all platforms."

The Result

Because of the fast visual recall provided by his maps, Dave is able to save huge amounts of time otherwise spent on reading page after page of linear notes when preparing for the courtroom. "It's a shortcut for thinking through things," he says. Mind mapping not only helps him to sort through all the information relating to a case, but also to arrange it into a compelling argumentative strategy he can present in court.