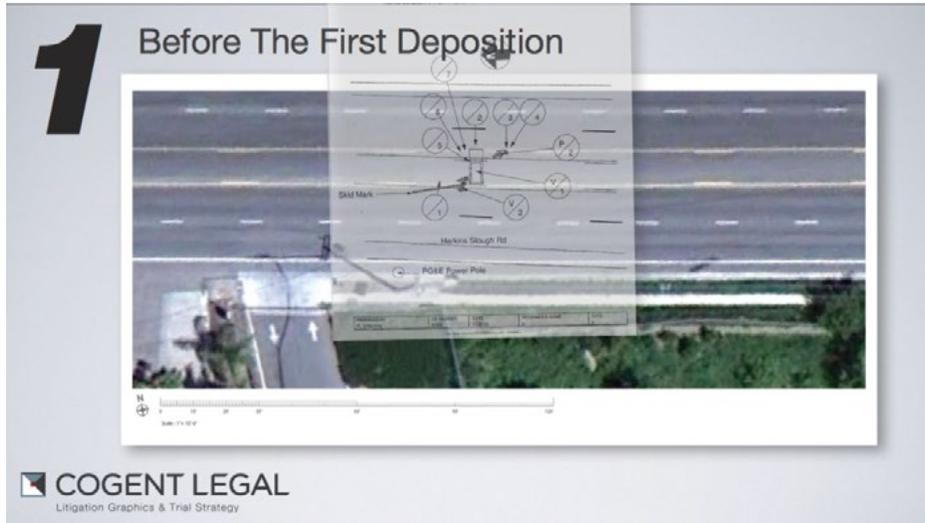
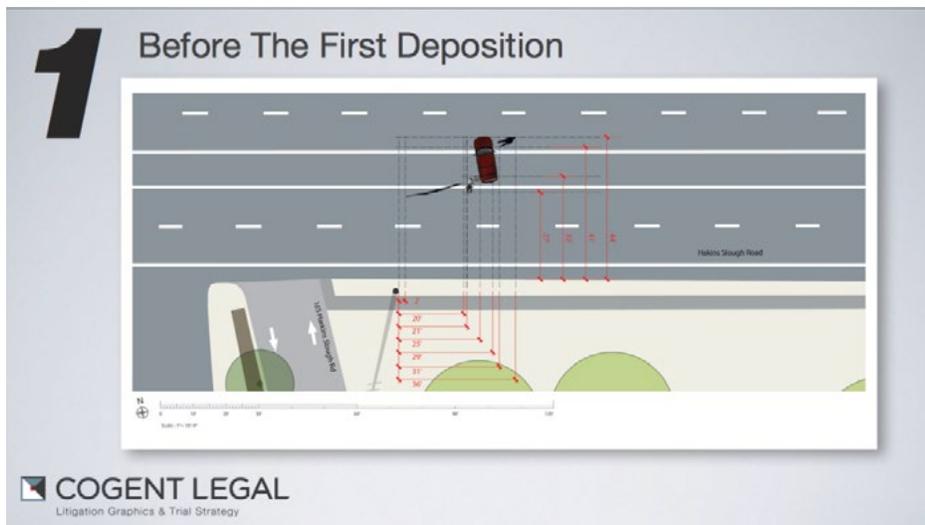


because they are full of confusing information and simply look bad.

Here's an example of a police sketch laid over an enlarged Google Earth image (i.e., an example of a less than optimal way of showing these images):



By comparison, here is a simple, affordable to-scale diagram created as vector art that can be displayed in different sizes, on screen or printed for 2D display (i.e. a better way to show the incident):

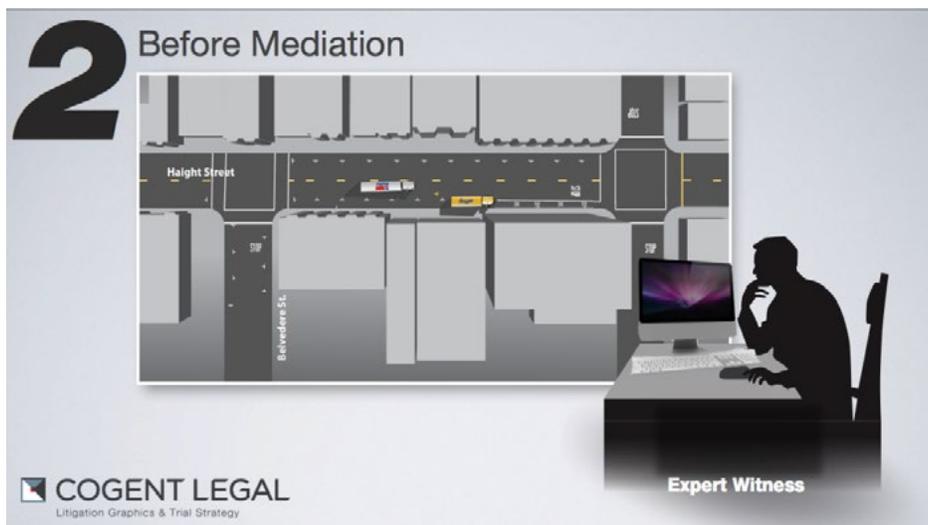


Once you have this diagram, you can use it in depositions for all experts and witnesses to work off of and mark up. You can then make an overlay showing each witness's details about what he or she remembered about the incident.



2. Before Mediation

Now that the key depositions are done with the aid of this first visual, you've made your expert's job much easier because you have developed a consistent and to-scale diagram showing what each key witness location testimony is. Experts may then use a program such as **PC Crash** to input data and create a simulation of the incident.



You can overlay the PC Crash simulation outputs with the location diagram you've made and give it to the expert to confirm that it's accurate, to scale and matches the expert's opinion. Then, you can use this for mediation on screen or on a poster board, assured that it is accurate and has foundation.

Another good visual tool to develop for mediation are storyboards, which visually summarize complex deposition testimony and show through pictures what happened or should have happened (see prior post on [how to create storyboards](#) for your case).

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Simulations and storyboards will help the mediator understand your argument and show all sides involved that you are ready to go to trial if necessary. If you don't settle your case, the good news is you're really ready for trial because you've developed this visual foundation that will be effective in front of a judge and jury.



3. Before Trial

Once you have these diagrams and storyboards done, and once the experts have done their work, you can go the extra step and create a 3D animation based on the data and images accumulated so far. ([Click here](#) to watch the animation pictured in the still image below.)



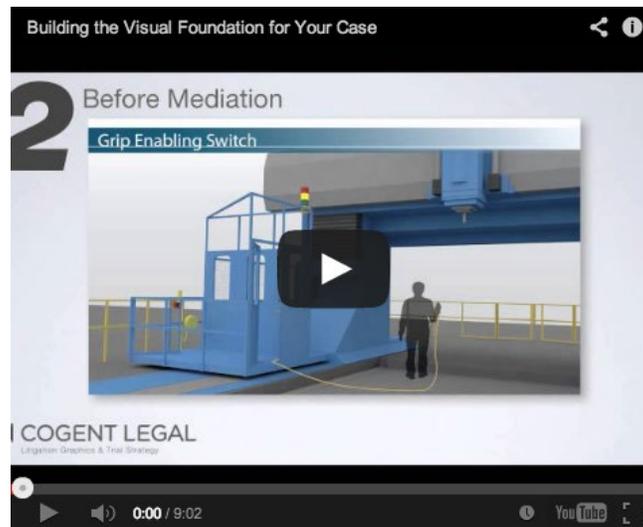
Visualizing the injury is also important for your case, to enhance juror understanding of what happened anatomically. Given that MRIs and X-rays are very difficult to understand, it's a good idea to graphically enhance these raw medical images with labels, colors and other treatment to make them more comprehensible to the lay person:



Finally, you may want to create a timeline for trial that shows the chronology of the incident and medical treatment:



You can watch my full 10-minute presentation below. I'm available to make this presentation—and modify it to focus on litigation graphics in other areas of the law—for groups of attorneys at law firms or bar associations; please [contact me](#) if you're interested.



*Morgan Smith is the owner of **Cogent Legal**, a litigation graphics and trial strategy firm based in the San Francisco Bay Area that develops clear and compelling visual presentations for attorneys to use in mediation or trial. Services include animations, 2D and 3D graphics, medical illustrations, PowerPoint or Keynote presentations, interactive timelines, videos, strategic consulting and trial support. Cogent Legal integrates the legal expertise of a successful trial attorney with the creative and technical talent of a design firm.*