



"When it comes to online research, I exclusively use CEB. The goal is finding something quickly and finding something on point. As a solo attorney, one that's contingency-based, I don't have the time to spend six hours to research some nebulous issue. **I need to know the answer, and I need to know it now."**

– Evan W. Walker, *The Law Office of Evan W. Walker, La Jolla*

CEB Stories: Evan W. Walker



New State, New Business, New Side

When Evan Walker moved to California, started his solo practice, and switched to the plaintiff's side, he chose CEB to be part of his new endeavor—and a big part of his ongoing success.

“ I practiced six years before coming to California. Drawing on that experience and the experience I've had since, **CEB is a class unto itself.** I had experience with some of the competitors, and I found them to be expensive and not very streamlined. I don't think they were built for people in practices like myself.”

The Solo Jump-Start

Evan Walker went to law school in New Orleans, and cut his teeth defending insurers from post-Katrina claims in that city. When he arrived in California six years later, with the determination to switch sides and start a solo plaintiff's practice focusing on catastrophic property damage and serious personal injury claims, he had to get up to speed, fast. He relied on CEB.

“You can have the best case in the world, but if you misstep on procedure, you’re going to lose the case. Working with CEB all these years, it’s allowed me to have a good understanding of procedure. As a solo, you see things attorneys do all day long, and you may think ‘I guess that’s OK. They’re from this big law firm, surely what they’re doing has to be right.’ And at least from this side of litigation, that’s a losing argument.”

“You have to rely on yourself and you have to get a case ready for trial. How do you do that? How do you take the case from ‘let’s get past the discovery’ to ‘trial is in six months?’ CEB had a practice guide laying out the many steps to get a case ready for trial. Early on, I took that information and digested it. I put it in my own framework, but that foundation was fundamental to my practice because **it gave me the roadmap that I just didn’t have.**”

“I find CEB to be a school apart from the other resources. I just find CEB to be qualitatively a better resource, especially for an attorney like myself.”

Big Challenges

When Evan Walker arrived in California, he set himself big challenges on multiple fronts:

- First, he had to learn the laws and procedures of a new jurisdiction.
- In moving from the defense side to the plaintiff’s, he needed to orient himself to the other side of litigation.
- As a solo practitioner, he didn’t have a partner or colleagues in his office to confer with about procedures or strategy.
- And finally, as someone starting his own business; he needed to see solid returns on his start-up costs.

Practice Roadmaps

When Walker has to research an issue, either case law or secondary sources, he hops online to ceb.com.

- CEB’s litigation resources were a game-changer, helping him get up to speed on California civil procedure so he could confidently take on California clients.
- He prizes the flexibility and mobility of CEB’s online resources for his cloud-based practice.
- The depth of CEB’s practice tips and procedural roadmaps have provided the experienced advice from California lawyers and judges that Walker might otherwise have missed in his solo practice.

Qualitatively Better

Evan Walker relied on CEB resources to get started in his California business, and in moving to the plaintiff’s side. He continues to rely on CEB today to keep up to date on laws, procedures, and strategy for his busy, successful California practice.