

Palm to the heart: "I'm truly sorry to hear that."



Form a "T" with your hands: When you want the witness to stop talking but you don't want to verbally interrupt, a time out sign may be effective.



Hand clenched into a fist: Use this when you want the jury to understand that the point you are making is important.



Hand at waist, open palm turned away from body, sweep hand to the side: Use this when you raise the defense alibi that you want the jury to disregard. "This is their excuse. You know it is not true."



Palm at stomach level, extended toward witness or juror: "I'm looking forward to giving you all the evidence."



Both palms up, alternating one above the other: Use this when explaining preponderance of the evidence. Or with a witness, "Did you weigh the risks against the benefits before you chose to beat the yellow light?"



Index finger to the mouth: "It was their little secret."



Palms up, shrug the shoulders, head tilted, eyebrows raised: "Who knew?"



Three fingers closed, thumb and index finger are parallel, slightly apart: "She was that close."



Palm touching face: "You could feel the embarrassment."



Thumb up, shoulder level: "She was ready to go."



Hand on hip: "She insisted on having it her way."



Hand open, arm extended: "All he had to do was stop."



Hands between stomach and chest, palms facing up, bewildered expression: "What was he thinking?"



Index finger to temple, tap twice:
"She knew."



Hands open, start at lower chest, slowly push palms down to waist level: "He needed to calm down."



Palm touching stomach, patting stomach, head slightly turn left and right: "He could tell in his gut that things were not right."



Fist into open palm: "She smashed her car into him."



At chest level, hand closed, hand opens and drops to stomach level, fingers pointed straight: This is a chop. Use it when you want to add emphasis to a powerful verbal statement.



Hands clenched, palms up, open hands and spread them apart, slowly dropping hands to abdomen, looking down at hands: "Then he just let the opportunity slip away."

116 — The Advocate Magazine January 2022 The Advocate Magazine.com www.advocatemagazine.com