

Litigation Skills Series Concludes As It Began

Top Attorneys, Diverse Perspectives, Detailed Topics and Materials

CHICAGO, IL, — Almost 200 of Chicago's litigators attended the Law Bulletin Seminars Litigation Skills III – Trial and Post Trial Issues Conference on Thursday September 11th. The Conference was the third in the Law Bulletin Seminars Litigation Skills Series. The first two conferences covered pre-trial and trial issues. This final installment focused upon improving litigation skills related to handling critical phases at the trial stage and preparing for post-trial. Panel discussions provided examples born from real trial experiences and helped attendees improve their overall trial strategy, presentation skills and highlighted preserving issues for appeal. "Good program - presentations on ethics and preserving issues for appeal were exceptional," said one attendee. Another commented "the ethics hypotheticals were very helpful." Conference attendees earned 4 MCLE credit hours, 1 hour of which qualified for professional responsibility credit.

Top lawyers from the bench, bar and ARDC presented a unique program focusing on improving an attorney's skills in handling critical stages of trial and post-trial. The conference began with a lively discussion of strategies for closing arguments with some "war stories" to put those strategies into context. Effective use of demonstratives during closing and juror tendencies rounded out the topics discussed. Next, ARDC Administrator Jerry Larkin led an open discussion of ethical courtroom behavior, including civility and pitfalls that arise during trial. Preserving issues for appeal was the topic of the next panel, which included Justice Warren Wolfson and several experienced trial and appellate lawyers. The conference concluded with advice on how to prepare your expert witness and challenge opposing counsel's expert.

The three-part series on litigation skills was generously underwritten by firms specializing in trial practice: Corboy & Demetrio, Cogan & McNabola, Lloyd & Cavanagh, the Gloor Law Group, and Robert Half Legal. Information regarding the Law Bulletin Seminars 2009 conference schedule will soon be available at www.LawBulletinSeminars.com.



Pictured are Philip "Flip" Corboy, Jr., Mark McNabola, Craig White and Ravi Bhatt



Pictured are Jerry Larkin, Brad Lyerla, Judge Thomas Donnelly and Steven Shear



Pictured are Tim Eaton, Justice Warren Wolfson, Charles Knight and Donald Ivanssek

The opening panel on strategies for closing arguments was led by Philip "Flip" Corboy, Jr., of Corboy & Demetrio and included Mark McNabola of Cogan & McNabola, Craig White of Wildman Harrold, and Ravi Bhatt of Chicago Winter Company. The panel emphasized the important chronological opportunity closing provides to cement in the jurors' minds your most favorable arguments and discredit your opponent's. The panel delivered the strategies from the plaintiff, defense and trial consultant perspective.

The second panel addressed the ethical issues that arise in the courtroom and throughout trial. Jerry Larkin, Administrator of the Illinois ARDC used several hypotheticals to engage the panel and attendees in evaluating issues of ethics, capacity and civility. The panel featured the Honorable Thomas More Donnelly of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Brad Lyerla of Marshall Gerstein & Borun, and Steven Shear of the Gloor Law Group. A consistent theme in the discussion was that the rules of conduct provide guidance, and an attorney's moral conduct fosters their relationship with the court, fellow counsel and their client.

What are the key elements of your case that you need to preserve for appeal? Probably more than you think. Attendees learned from the appellate court, appellate attorneys and trial attorneys where critical appealable issues arise and how to best preserve those issues. Tim Eaton of Shesky & Froelich moderated the panel, which included Justice Warren Wolfson of the Illinois Appellate Court, Charles Knight of Holland & Knight, and Donald Ivanssek of the Gloor Law Group. "The appeal starts when the trial begins," Eaton was quick to explain. The panel then walked through the delicate balance trial attorneys must manage between stopping the trial to make a point on the record and keeping the flow of the trial going.

Setting the table for the jury when presenting or challenging an expert witness was a consistent point of the final panel on preparing your expert and challenging theirs. Larry Kream of the Law Office of Lawrence R. Kream moderated a talented panel of trial experts Kurt Lloyd of Lloyd & Cavanagh, Kevin Glenn of Foran Glennon Palandech & Ponzi, Arnold Stein of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck, and Alan Tuerkheimer of Zagnoli McEvoy Foley.



Pictured are Larry Kream, Kurt Lloyd, Alan Turkheimer, Arnold Stein and Kevin Glenn



Almost 200 attended the Litigation Skills III – Trial and Post-Trial Conference on September 11, 2008, which featured 17 speakers and provided 4 MCLE credit hours.

"Excellent structure, presentations and caliber of the speakers."

"Excellent program and speakers; overall very useful information."

"Great breakfast and refreshments."



Pictured are Philip "Flip" Corboy, Jr., Mark McNabola and Craig White before their closing arguments panel discussion

"I attended all three conferences in your litigation series. Great programs. Do it again next year."

Copies of the program are available from
Law Bulletin Seminars.
— Call 312.644.6762.

Learn more about our 2009 schedule at

www.LawBulletinSeminars.com

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