

CITY BAR CENTER FOR CLE

ANATOMY OF A TRIAL: COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID IN A CIVIL JURY TRIAL

Tuesday, September 13 / 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The program features three distinguished civil trial attorneys and a State Supreme Judge from New York County. The faculty will provide an overview of the segments of a jury trial from Opening Statements to Post-Trial Motions, with a focus on the common mistakes and pitfalls that frequently arise and create difficulty for practitioners on both sides of the aisle.

You will learn: Appropriate tone and substance in openings statements and how to push the envelope while avoiding objections; what issues typically create problems during direct and cross examinations; how to successfully admit documents into evidence; how to utilize and oppose trial motions; basic problems that arise during summations, and common errors in charge conferences from the judicial perspective.

Program Chair

Stephen Z. Williamson
Law Office of Steve Williamson, PLLC

Faculty

D. Carl Lustig III
Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C.

Lenore Kramer
Kramer & Dunleavy LLP

Larry Lum
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Honorable Judith J. Gische
Justice of the Supreme Court
New York County

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Illinois Credit: 2.5 general MCLE credits

Agenda

- 6:00-6:10 p.m. **Introductory Remarks**
Stephen Z. Williamson
- 6:10-6:30 p.m. **Opening Statements**
 - Composure in front of the jury: using eye contact and accessible language to convey your message
 - Making out your prima facie proof and avoiding dismissal
 - Addressing your weaknesses and stealing your adversary's thunder*Lenore Kramer*
- 6:30-6:50 p.m. **Direct Examinations**
 - Crafting an efficient and effective presentation
 - Common mistakes that dilute the power of direct exams*D. Carl Lustig, III*
- 6:50 - 7:10 p.m. **Cross Examinations**
 - Issues that arise with lay and expert witnesses
 - How to avoid the usual pitfalls with a hostile witness*Larry Lum*
- 7:10-7:30 p.m. **Admitting Documents & Other Items into Evidence**
 - Perils of laying an improper foundation
 - Avoiding and Overcoming hearsay objections
 - Making your case with learned treatises*Larry Lum*
- 7:30-7:45 p.m. **Break**
- 7:45-8:05 p.m. **Summations**
 - Maximize your impact on the jury
 - Traps and errors to avoid as you close the case*D. Carl Lustig, III*
- 8:05-8:25 p.m. **Trial Motions**
 - In limine motions, motions for directed verdicts, mistrial, and post-trial motions*Lenore Kramer*
- 8:25-8:45 p.m. **Charge Conferences**
 - When to most effectively raise your objections and how to win requests for missing witnesses and documents*Hon. Judith J. Gische*
- 8:45-9:00 p.m. **Q & A**
Panel

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