Trial Tips from the Bench
The Bench
Hon. Mary Miller Johnston
Business Court Judge

• Delaware Superior Court judge
• Appointed to the Superior Court of Delaware on September 25, 2003
• Served as Chief Counsel of the Delaware Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel
• Partner with Morris James, LLP practicing primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial litigation
• Past President of the Board of Children & Families First
Hon. Paul Wallace  
Business Court Judge

• Delaware Superior Court

• Appointed to the Superior Court of Delaware by Governor Jack A. Markell and began serving in January 2013

• JD: Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America

• Criminal Law Background, Delaware DOJ, Chief of Appeals

• In 2012, Judge Wallace was awarded the National Appellate Advocacy Award by the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation
Hon. Elizabeth Stong
Bankruptcy Judge

• Judge for the Eastern District of New York since 2003
• Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Council and Membership Committee of the American Law Institute
• An adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School and St. John’s University School of Law
• Received her A.B. magna cum laude and her J.D. from Harvard University
Hon. Christopher Yates
Superior Court Judge

- Kent County Superior Court, Michigan
- JD and MBA from the University of Illinois
- Judge Yates served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, then in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice, and as the Chief Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Michigan
- Judge Yates has been a judge since April 22, 2008
- Judge Yates is assigned to the Court’s Specialized Business Docket
Hon. Stephen Schuster
Judge

• Superior Court of the Cobb Judicial Circuit
• Began service as a judge on January 1, 2005
• Has served as a Judge of the Juvenile Court of Cobb County
• Began his career as a prosecutor in both the State and Superior Courts of Cobb County
• Received his J.D. degree from the University of Georgia School of Law
• Is a founding member of the American College of Business Court Judges
• Proponent of the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in resolving issues that arise in complex civil cases
Hon. Timothy Driscoll
Judge

• Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York
• Has been assigned to the Nassau County Commercial Division since May 2009
• An adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School and has served as a teaching team member at the Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop
• Served as Deputy Nassau County Executive for Law Enforcement and Public Safety from July 2004 to December 2007
• Was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York from November 2000 to July 2004
Hon. Denise Owens
Chancellor

• Chancery Court Judge for District 3 in Hinds County, MS
• Serves as pre-law program adviser and adjunct professor at Tougaloo College
• Elected to the Hinds County Chancery bench in 1989
• First African-American female chancellor in the state
• JD from George Washington University
• Judge Owens and her colleagues organized a law camp to reach girls ages 12-15
Melissa Visconti
Attorney – Damian Valori LLP

- Trial and appellate lawyer, state and federal court appeals, complex litigation, and receiverships
- University of Miami School of Law
- Was an assistant United States Attorney (10+ years)
- Is admitted to practice in the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of Florida and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the Supreme Court of the United States
Victor Vital
Partner – Barnes & Thornburg

• Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
• Inducted into the Texas Lawyer Verdicts Hall of Fame for securing a No. 1 verdict -- the largest employment verdict in Texas in 2012
• Business and Tort Litigator
Tips from the Bench

COMMON PITFALLS MADE BY ATTORNEYS:

• Pre-Trial
• E-discovery
• Motions in Limine
• Voir dire
• Cross-Examinations
Trial Tips from the Bench

• Introducing evidence
• Authentication of both physical & electronic evidence
• Objections during trial
• Expert witnesses
• Closing Argument
Tips for Old & New Practitioners
Thank you