Avoiding a Game of Thrones in the Courtroom:
Fostering Civility and Best Practices

Civility is one of the most important tools and practices available to a lawyer or judge. When practiced on a consistent basis, civility can go far to enhance dispute resolution, improve the image and reputation of our profession, and improve the quality of life of practitioners and judges.

In this program, panelists will 1) discuss practical tools that judges have used to encourage civil behavior from the lawyers that appear before them, 2) consider how judges conduct themselves, and manage disputes including how Appellate judges view civility in the record and avoid unnecessary “brief slaps”, and 3) consider ways in which administrative law judges handle disputes by unrepresented parties and manage civility through remote appearances. In addition, litigators will discuss their strategies and techniques for dealing with a judge who is engaging in bullying/disrespectful behavior toward counsel, and techniques they have used successfully to de-escalate a situation involving judicial misconduct.

Moderator:

Hon. David Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court, Santa Fe, NM

Panelists:

Hon. Christopher McFadden, Georgia Court of Appeals, Atlanta, GA

Hon. Elizabeth Stong, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn, NY

Hon. Sophia H. Hall, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL

Hon. Timothy L. Brooks, U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

Choi T. Portis, Young Lawyer Division ABA, Southfield, MI

Heidi K. Brown, Professor, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY

Hon. Stephanie Domitrovich, Erie County Court of Common Please, Erie, PA

Merril Hirsh, FCIarb, HirshADR PLLC, Law Office of Merril Hirsh PLLC, Washington, DC

The ABA directly applies for and ordinarily receives CLE credit for ABA programs in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, GU, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MN, MS, MO, MP, MT, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, VI, WA, WI, and WV. These states sometimes do not approve a program for credit before the program occurs. This course is expected to qualify for 1.5 CLE credit hours in 60-minute states, and 1.8 credit hours in 50-minute states. This transitional program is approved for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys in NY. Attorneys may be eligible to receive CLE credit through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states. For more information about CLE accreditation in your state, visit www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mcle/ or contact Kris.berliant@americanbar.org or 312.988.5700.