

Speaker Biographies

Standing Committee on Specialization
Annual Roundtable

San Francisco, CA

March 31-April 2, 2011

SPEAKER BIOS

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TIMOTHY BOUCH

Managing partner of Leath, Bouch & Seekings, LLP, Tim Bouch practices in the areas of environmental law and corporate litigation. He has an active national trial practice and serves as a national, regional and state trial counsel for a number of clients. He deals with a full range of product liability and environmental issues, representing utilities, chemical manufacturing industries, financial institutions and insurance carriers. He has been lead or liaison counsel in many multiple party cases, including primary lead counsel in the defense of companies involved in formaldehyde, asbestos, ethylene glycol solvents, petroleum contamination and pharmaceutical litigation.

He also teaches Insurance Law and Ethics and Professional Responsibility at the Charleston School of Law. He is a frequent writer and lecturer on the topics of environmental litigation and ethics.

He has served in several capacities for the American Bar Association, including:

- Chair of the Standing Committee on Specialization (present)
- Chair-elect of the Tort, Trial & Insurance Practice Section (2007-08)
- Chair of the Litigation Section Environmental Litigation Committee (1997-2000)
- Chair of the Tort, Trial & Insurance Practice Section Toxic and Hazardous Substances Committee(1998-99)
- Past member of the Standing Committee on Professional Discipline
- Past member of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility Publications Board
- Representative to the House of Delegates (2001-2005)

He has also served the South Carolina Bar Association as a representative to the ABA House of Delegates from 1998 to 2006, the South Carolina Supreme Court as the past chair of the Commission on the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the American Law Institute as an elected member.

J. SCOTT BOVITZ

J. Scott Bovitz is the senior partner of Bovitz & Spitzer, a bankruptcy law firm in Los Angeles (bovitz-spitzer.com).

- Designated as a Certified Specialist in Bankruptcy by the California Board of Legal Specialization (ls.calbar.ca.gov), and is also a past chair of the California Board of Legal Specialization.
- Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification (abcworld.org) and is a current director of the American Board of Certification and Chair of its State Bar Liaison Committee.
- Holds an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell (martindale.com); he has been jointly selected by Los Angeles Magazine and Law & Politics Magazine as a "Southern California Super Lawyer" in bankruptcy (superlawyers.com).
- Current member of the State Bar of California Committee of Bar Examiners and a member of its Subcommittee on Educational Standards (cc.calbar.ca.gov).

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Bovitz is a composer and has written, performed, recorded and posted 276 songs (bovitz.biz). He is also the recording engineer for the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic (lalawyersphil.org).

RICHARD L. DOMBROW

Richard Dombrow received his J.D. Degree from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law and was admitted to the California Bar in 1970. In 1980, he became a Certified Specialist in Family Law after passing the first Specialty Bar exam given in Family Law by the State Bar of California.

He handles complex Family Law cases while also maintaining a practice focusing on counseling businesses from incorporation through business litigation and estate planning issues such as wills, trusts and probate.

He has been active in the Specialty Sections of the American Bar Association and the California State Bar.

Mr. Dombrow is also a Registered Investment Advisor.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Member and active pilot - Liga International, Flying Doctors
Member and active pilot - Angel Flight, transporting ill children
Major - United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol
Search and Rescue, Drug and Border Patrol qualified
Roosters

MIKE FERGUSON

Mike Ferguson has been in private practice since graduating from the University of California Law School at Berkeley in 1968, concentrating his practice in estate planning and administration since the early 1980's. He is certified by the California State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law and is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Mr. Ferguson has taught extensively, as an Adjunct Professor in the Executive MBA Program at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California (Business Law and Ethics), at the University of California Law School at Berkeley (Wills & Trusts), and as a regular speaker on various topics relating to estate planning/administration and legal specialization.

In addition to teaching and his practice, Mr. Ferguson has been the Chairman of the Board and General Counsel for the Rockridge Health Care Plan (an Oakland based HMO providing high quality health care services to a broad spectrum of local residents--almost half of whom were enrolled through MediCal), the Chair of the of the California State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization (which administers the State's program to certify legal specialists), and a member of the Professional Standards Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Mr. Ferguson has a wife and four sons--who delight in keeping him humble.

JOSH KING

Josh King is Vice President of Business Development & General Counsel of Avvo. He is responsible for the company's business development, professional and government

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relations, and legal affairs. Prior to joining Avvo in October 2007, Josh was Director of Business Development for Clearwire, where he acquired new markets that expanded the wireless broadband company's market reach to include tens of millions of potential new customers. Previous to Clearwire, Josh was Vice President, Corporate Development at AT&T Wireless, where he led much of the company's mergers and acquisitions work and was instrumental in the \$46 billion sale of the company to Cingular, the largest cash transaction in history. Josh has also worked as General Counsel for Cellular One of San Francisco and as a litigation attorney. Josh earned a J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of the Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon.

CINDY LARSON

Cindy Larson is the Director of Research and Editorial for Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business. She supervises the teams that produce all Super Lawyers editorial, including selection of the lists, top lists, and feature editorial. Super Lawyers was acquired by Thomson Reuters in February 2010. Prior to the acquisition, Ms. Larson was the Director of Research for Key Professional Media and was part of the management group that facilitated the national expansion of the Super Lawyers attorney ratings. She received her undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. Ms. Larson practiced in the area of commercial litigation prior to entering the field of legal publishing.

MELISSA S. MAY

Melissa S. May was appointed to the Court of Appeals in April of 1998. Judge May was born in Elkhart, Indiana in 1957. She graduated from Indiana University-South Bend with a B.S. in 1980 and from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis with a J.D. in 1984.

Between law school and her appointment to the Court, Judge May practiced law in Evansville, Indiana, focusing on insurance defense and personal injury litigation.

Judge May has been active in local, state, and national bar associations and bar foundations. She served the Indiana Bar Association on the Board of Managers from 1992-1994, as Chair of the Litigation Section from 1998-1999, as Counsel to the President from 2000-2001, as chair of the Appellate Practice Section from 2008-2009, and as Secretary to the Board of Governors in 2008-2009. In addition, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum from 1994-1999 and has been a co-chair of ICLEF's Indiana Trial Advocacy College from 2001 to present. She is a fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation, as well as for the American Bar Association, and she is a Master Fellow of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

From 1999 till December 2004, Judge May was a member of Indiana's Continuing Legal Education Commission, where she chaired the Specialization Committee. She is currently on an Advisory Panel to the Specialization Committee. In 2005, she was named to the Indiana Pro Bono Commission and in July 2008, she was named as Chair of that Commission. In 2003, Judge May was named to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Attorney Specialization. She is now special counsel to that committee. In the spring of 2004, Judge May became adjunct faculty at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis, where she teaches a trial advocacy

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course. Also in the spring of 2004, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law from the University of Southern Indiana.

GARY MCNEIL

Gary McNeil is a 1973 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. He has worked as disciplinary counsel for the State Bar of Texas and the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, has been in private practice and has worked as a program attorney with the Professional Development Program of the State Bar of Texas.

Gary began serving as Executive Director of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization on September 1, 1985. During that time, he has served on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Specialization, and has been a regular participant in the annual ABA Roundtable on Lawyer Specialty Certification.

He has also been active in the Association of Legal Specialization Executives, which is composed of those who administer certification programs in the United States and serves on the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification.

STEVEN NAIFEH

Steven Naifeh, the editor and founder of Best Lawyers, is a graduate of the Harvard Law School, class of 1977. Before turning to publishing and writing, Mr. Naifeh worked briefly at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in New York.

Together with Gregory White Smith, his co-author and co-founder of Best Lawyers, he has written twelve nonfiction books including four national bestsellers. Their book *Jackson Pollock: An American Saga* won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1991 and was a finalist for the National Book Award. It was also the basis of the Academy-Award winning film "Pollock" starring Ed Harris.

In addition to founding and editing Best Lawyers, Smith and Naifeh founded and served as Chairman and CEO of Best Doctors, Inc., from 1994 until 2000.

Naifeh has been profiled in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Harvard Magazine*, and *People*, as well as on CBS's "60 Minutes." They have appeared on many television programs, including "Oprah," "Larry King Live," "Donahue," "The Today Show" and "Charlie Rose."

Since 2001, Naifeh and Smith have been working on a biography of Vincent van Gogh, which will be published by Random House on October 18, 2011.

JULIA L. ORZESKE

Ms. Orzeske is the Executive Director of the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education. The Commission is an agency of the Indiana Supreme Court and is responsible for regulating mandatory CLE, CJE, specialization, and the mediator registry in Indiana.

Ms. Orzeske served as a deputy prosecutor in Marion County from 1985 to 1991, then as a staff attorney for the Indiana Supreme Court from 1991 through 1994. She has been with the Commission since 1994.

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She is a member of the Indianapolis, Indiana, and American Bar Associations and is also licensed to practice law in Illinois. She serves on the Indiana State Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution and PLEADS Sections Councils. She has served on the ISBA's Women in the Law Committee and Long Range Planning Committee and recently completed a term on the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization.

She has served as chair of the Organization of Regulatory Administrators for Continuing Legal Education (now CLEreg) and is a past management committee chair for that organization. She was the general chair for the Indiana State Bar Association meeting in October 2006. She has also served as chair of the ISBA PLEADS section.

Ms. Orzeske lives in Indianapolis, Indiana with her husband, Don (also an attorney) and their three children.

DAVID E. RAPOPORT

David Rapoport is the founding partner of Rapoport Law Offices, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois, a plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death law firm. A full time trial lawyer for the last twenty-nine years, David is board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and serves as a member of the Board of Directors, where he chairs the Communications Committee. David is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), is rated "AV Preeminent®" by Martindale-Hubbell, has been designated an "Illinois Super Lawyer" and an "Illinois Leading Lawyer" every year these programs have been in existence, and is ranked "10 Superb" by Avvo.

David is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth and Seventh Circuits, and all federal and state courts in his home states of Illinois and Wisconsin. He is the lead author of more than a dozen articles and has served as lead counsel in cases generating more than sixty published opinions. David has extensive experience settling and trying cases involving air disasters, medical malpractice, truck collisions and product liability.

THOMAS P. SARTWELLE

Thomas P. Sartwelle has been in private law practice in Houston, Texas since graduating from the University of Texas Law School in 1967. Primarily a defense lawyer, he has defended a wide variety of personal injury, products, medical device, and drug cases, medical and legal malpractice and commercial cases, as well as some criminal cases, one of which is the longest trial in Texas history, The Autumn Hills Nursing Home murder case.

He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Civil Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and Medical and Legal Malpractice by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. He is first Vice-President of the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. He also holds the rank of Advocate in the American Board of Trial Advocates.

He has published a wide variety of law review and other seminar articles including, *Your Doctor is Board Certified. Is Your Lawyer?* and *Defending A Neurologic Birth*

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Injury; Asphyxia Neonatorum Redux, 30 J. Legal Medicine, 181, (2009), an article included in the Vanderbilt University Law School, Law and Neuroscience Project's Bibliography of "scholarship that meaningfully engages with the intersection of law and neuroscience."

WENDY WEISS

Wendy Weiss – B.S., 1980 Lehigh University, J.D. 1983, Delaware Law School. Member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars. Practiced personal injury defense law, primarily medical malpractice defense, from 1983 to 1987. Since late 1987, employed by the State of New Jersey as the administrator of The New Jersey Supreme Court Board on Attorney Certification. Also performs legal tasks for the New Jersey Supreme Court, including: review of interlocutory appeals; digests of recent court opinions; research; program budgeting; and other managerial/administrative functions as required. Served as member of the Standing Committee on Specialization from 2002 through 2005. Has served as a Roundtable Planning Committee member for about eight years. Currently is serving as staff to the New Jersey Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Mandatory CLE. Resides in the historic town of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. Currently serving on several non-profit boards in the community.

JAMES WREN

Jim Wren was recruited to join the faculty of Baylor Law School in 2006, as a professor teaching the Practice Court course required of all third-year Baylor Law students. He comes from a thirty-year specialization in business litigation, including business fraud, professional liability and fiduciary litigation. While in private practice he was designated by Texas Monthly as a Texas Super Lawyer in Business Litigation each year from the time the designation originated in 2002. He is board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy (by the National Board of Trial Advocacy) and in Civil Trial Law and in Personal Injury Trial Law (by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization), and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocacy (ABOTA).

Jim presently serves as President of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification, which is the largest ABA-accredited national certifying board for civil trial, criminal trial, and other legal specializations. He is licensed for federal practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the Western, Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts of Texas, and continues to represent clients in other federal and state courts by special admission.

He is author of the book *Presenting Damages to the Jury*, being published by James Publishing later this year.

RICHARD ZITRIN

Richard Zitrin is of counsel to the San Francisco firm of Carlson, Calladine & Peterson, LLP, and a Lecturer in Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He spent 34 years as a named partner in his own firm, has taught legal ethics at Hastings since 1994 and at the University of San Francisco School of Law from 1977 to 2005, where he became coordinator of the course's curriculum in 1991 and from 2000 to 2004 was the founder and first Director of the Center for Applied Legal Ethics (now known as the Center for Law and Ethics). He is certified as a

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specialist in Legal Malpractice by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization.

Mr. Zitrin's principal practice involves a wide range of attorney conduct issues, including litigating legal malpractice claims on behalf of plaintiffs and advising attorneys on issues of legal ethics, attorneys' fees and malpractice avoidance. He has extensive experience and training as both a trial lawyer and mediator. He has tried approximately 50 cases to verdict, has taught trial practice at USF, and has mediated extensively since the late 1970s. He has co-authored a general-audience book on lawyers and the American legal system, *The Moral Compass of the American Lawyer* (Ballantine, 1999), a textbook that emphasizes a practical approach to teaching ethics, *Legal Ethics in the Practice of Law* (3rd edition, LEXISNEXIS, 2007), and an annually-updated book comparing the rules of ethics, *Legal Ethics Rules, Statutes and Comparisons* (LEXISNEXIS, 2011). He has published widely on issues of legal ethics in law review articles, as a columnist for American Law Media, and in op-ed pieces in general circulation media. He speaks nationally and locally to lawyers, judges, law students, bar groups, and other professional organizations on ethics, malpractice, and other attorney practice issues.

In addition: Mr. Zitrin served as legal technical advisor to the 1991 film *Class Action*, in which he had a speaking role opposite Gene Hackman as a "bad guy" lawyer. He is a member of several state, local, and ABA organizations that address legal ethics and legal services issues, has served as chair of several state and local bar committees relating to these issues and as a member of his local bar's board of directors, and in recent years, has served as a consultant to several members of the California legislature and the United States Congress. He coordinates a pro bono program sponsored by the Bar Association of San Francisco and Glide Memorial Church, and in 2006 received the American Bar Association's annual Pro Bono Publico Award. He served on the State Bar of California's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct from 1990 to 1996, as Chair in 1994-95 and Special Advisor in 1995-96. He is a graduate of Oberlin College and New York University School of Law. He is admitted to practice in California and New York.