

Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
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NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS

Diversity Inclusion Working Group

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 7, 2022

ATTORNEYS: REGISTER NOW FOR FREE MCLE-APPROVED EXAMINATION OF EXPERT WITNESSES TRAINING PROGRAM ON OCT. 20

Join Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor, Judge Ruth Ann Kwan and expert attorneys on Thursday, October 20 for an *Examination of Expert Witnesses* lunchtime virtual training program. Attendees will learn from experienced attorneys when to use an expert witness, how to select an expert witness and how to prepare for expert examination.

[Register HERE by 5 p.m. October 19, 2022](#)

(The link to the virtual program will be sent after registration.)

WHEN: Noon – 2 p.m., October 20, 2022

WHAT:

1. Nuts and bolts discussion: when to use and expert, how to select an expert and expert preparation.
2. Demonstration of direct and cross examination of an expert witness.
3. Roundtable discussion with presenters, feedback and tips.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS: (Bios attached)	Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor	Judge Ruth Ann Kwan
	Adrian Gragas	Rahul Ravipudi
	René A. Castañeda, P.E.	Dana Alden Fox
	Deborah Chang	Garro Mardirossian

Attorneys of all levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The session is eligible for two hours of MCLE credit. (*The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles is a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider.*)

This is the fourth program in the Civil Trial Advocacy series, sponsored by the Diversity Inclusion Working Group and co-sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

American Board
of Trial Advocates



abtl

ASCD



Consumer Attorneys
ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES



Please email questions about this program to Marlow Gory at MGory@lacourt.org.

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P R E S E N T E R S

LASC CIVIL TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM EXAMINATION OF EXPERT WITNESSES



Adrian Gragas
Assistant County Counsel, Los Angeles County Counsel
Expert Witness Nuts & Bolts

Adrian Gragas has been with the Los Angeles County Counsel Office for over 27 years, and is currently the division chief of the General Litigation Division. He is responsible for defending the County in personal injury cases involving wrongful death, serious injuries and multi-million dollar liability. He has tried jury trials in both federal and state courts, achieving major victories in cases of allegations of police excessive force, automobile negligence and dangerous conditions of public property. In a six-week period, he tried four jury trials in both state and federal courts and obtained four defense verdicts. He was awarded the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Attorney of the Year in 2010.



Rahul Ravipudi
Partner, Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP
Expert Witness Nuts & Bolts

Rahul Ravipudi is a partner at Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP, where he has received record verdicts and settlements in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. He serves as plaintiffs co-lead counsel in Southern California Fire Cases litigation and the JUUL Labs Product cases. He was named as the CAALA 2021 Trial Lawyer of the Year and has been named the 2023 Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyer in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions. He has been named by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California and one of the the Top Plaintiff Lawyers in California. He is a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Attorneys, a fellow of the American College of Trial Attorneys, a fellow of the International Society of Barristers and an associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).



Deborah Chang
Founder & Managing Partner, Athea Trial Lawyers LLP & Chang | Klein LLP
Expert Witness Examination Demo

Deborah Chang is a founding partner of the national firm, Athea Trial Lawyers LLP, and the Los Angeles firm of Chang | Klein LLP. She has obtained some of the largest verdicts and settlements throughout California, and is the immediate past president of the Consumer Attorneys of California and the current president of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). She has been named by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California, one of the the Top Plaintiff Lawyers in California and one of the Top Women Lawyers in California. She was awarded the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers for Personal Injury Litigation Plaintiffs for the Los Angeles Area, and is the recipient of the 2019 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year (CLAY) award and the 2014 CAOC Consumer Attorney of the Year award.





Dana Alden Fox
Partner, Lewis Brisbois
Expert Witness Examination
Demo

Dana Fox is a partner at Lewis Brisbois, where he serves as co-chair of the firm's General Liability practice and is the defense "go-to" attorney in the most difficult, high exposure, and high profile cases in the country — including the Walmart mass shooting in El Paso, the mass shooting in Las Vegas, and the attack of a spectator at a Dodgers game case that attracted national attention. He is a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers and is an advocate with the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and has been named as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal.



Garo Mardirossian
Founding Partner,
Mardirossian Akaragian LLP
Moderator & Panelist

Garo Mardirossian is the founding partner of Mardirossian Akaragian LLP, where he has achieved record verdicts in high profile cases - including the first Ford Explorer jury verdict, the first jury verdict finding defective seat belt design against Nissan and the largest judgment in history against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He was named CAALA's Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2000, and has been recognized by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 California Lawyers. He is the former president of CAALA and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).



René A. Castañeda, P.E.
Principal Engineer,
Castañeda Engineering
Expert Witness

René A. Castañeda, P.E. is a registered professional engineer, licensed in California in the discipline of mechanical engineering. Mr. Castañeda earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Fresno in 1994 and immediately began his career in accident reconstruction with Blair, Church and Flynn Consulting Engineers. In 2004, he founded Castañeda Engineering, Inc. and is currently the principal engineer at the firm, specializing in the investigation and reconstruction of complex transportation related accidents. Mr. Castañeda has reconstructed over 3,000 accidents and has qualified and testified as an expert witness in accident reconstruction in over 85 trials in courts throughout California and in Federal Court. He has authored peer-reviewed technical articles in the Society of Automotive Engineers Technical Paper Series and in the Journal of the National Academy of Forensic Engineers.



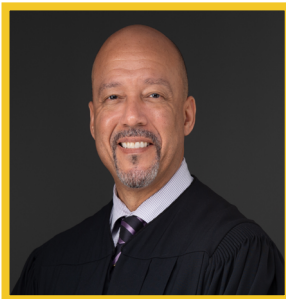
Judge Ruth Ann Kwan
Los Angeles Superior Court
Co-Chair, Diversity Inclusion
Working Group
Trial Judge; Expert Witness
Examination

As a first generation Chinese American, Ruth Kwan immigrated from Hong Kong in 1970 at age 14. She graduated from the University of Southern California in 1978 and received her J.D. degree from UC Hastings College of the Law in 1981. Judge Kwan was appointed to the East Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1995 and was elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 1998.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Kwan supervised the Consumer Protection Section and Dispute Resolution Program at the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. She tried over 60 jury and non-jury trials and handled many high-profile consumer fraud cases.

During her judicial career, Judge Kwan had various assignments and responsibilities. She has presided over hundreds of felonies and civil jury trials during her 27-year judicial career. Currently, she sits in a Long Cause Civil Trial Court in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Prior to her current assignment, Judge Kwan sat in an Independent Calendar Court for 14 years, where she presided over the following types of cases: business and other commercial matters; real estate disputes; construction defects; insurance bad faith; trade secret violations; personal injury matters including wrongful death, TBI, sexual abuse, asbestos and products liability; employment matters which included class actions, PAGA actions, FEHA, and wage and hour violations; and many others. She serves as co-chair of the Diversity Inclusion Working Group and is a part of the production team that put together LASC's Trial Advocacy Skills Program.

A Special Thanks to:



Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor
Los Angeles Superior Court
Co-Chair, Diversity Inclusion
Working Group
Introduction * Closings

Sponsored by LASC's Diversity Inclusion Working Group, co-sponsored by ABOTA, ABTL, ASCDC, CAALA and LACBA

