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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 22, 2022

SIGN UP NOW FOR APRIL 21 VIRTUAL CIVIL TRIAL ADVOCACY VOIR DIRE PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY THE COURT'S DIVERSITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Don't miss the opportunity to join prominent attorneys and jury consultant experts as they share tips for conducting effective jury voir dire for Civil trials. Learn from industry specialists during the virtual 2-hour comprehensive Civil Trial Advocacy Voir Dire Program. The program starts at **12 p.m. on Thursday, April 21** and includes:

- A "Nuts and Bolts" lecture on jury selection with perspective on voir dire from plaintiff and defense counsel;
- A mock dynamic jury selection with peremptory challenges; and
- A Roundtable Question-and-Answer session with feedback and tips from the presenters and plaintiff and defense jury consultants.

Attorneys of all levels of experience are encouraged to attend and will receive 2-hours of MCLE credit.

[Register HERE Before April 20, 2022](#)

When: April 21, 2022
12 – 2 p.m.

Program Participants:
(Bios attached)

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor
Gary Dordick
Genie Harrison
Lauren Lofton
Elizabeth Hernandez
Claire Plotkin

Judge Yvette M. Palazuelos
Michael Schonbuch
Lourdes DeArmas
Mary R. Fersch
Molly Murphy

-MORE-

CIVIL VOIR DIRE PROGRAM

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

The event is 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



Consumer Attorneys
ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES



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LASC CIVIL TRIAL ADVOCACY VOIR DIRE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Presented by Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor and the Diversity Inclusion Working Group



Gary Dordick
Dordick Law Corporation

Gary A. Dordick of Dordick Law Corporation is a trial attorney specializing in plaintiff jury trials and has over 150 Jury trials in his career. Mr. Dordick is also on the executive board of ABOTA, Los Angeles chapter. He is an Emeritus member of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) Board of Governors. He won CAALA's Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2001. He has been nominated for CAALA's Trial Lawyer of the Year an unprecedented eleven times. He is CAOC's (Consumer Attorneys of California) 2009 Trial Attorney of the Year. He was announced one of the Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers in California in 2017 and 2021, as well as one of the Daily Journal's Top 30 Plaintiff Lawyers in California for 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Mr. Dordick was named Jury Verdicts Trial Lawyer of the Year. In 2016, he was awarded the Loyola Law School Champion of Justice Award for his career achievements representing Plaintiffs. In 2015, he received the "Civil Advocate Award" from the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (ASCDC). In 2003, Mr. Dordick received the University of West Los Angeles's highest honor - The Bernard Jefferson Award. Mr. Dordick founded Dordick Trial College in Cabo San Lucas, B.C. which holds an annual trial school with all the proceeds going to cancer research. Mr. Dordick frequently lectures trial practice, ethics, and civility in the courtroom. Some of his recent lectures include: CAALA Teaching PTA, CAOC National Webinar, Brain Injury Association, Loyola Law School, Western Trial Lawyers Association, Law-Di-Gras, ASCDC Annual Seminar, CAALA and CAOC annual conference. He has held the record for the highest jury verdicts in numerous courthouses, including a record breaking \$125 million dollar jury verdict in Ventura County in 2016.



Michael Schonbuch
*Daniels, Fine, Israel,
Schonbuch & Lebovits, LLP*

Michael "Mike" Schonbuch was the 2015 President of The Association Of Southern California Defense Counsel and the 2018 President of California Defense Counsel. He was President of The Los Angeles Chapter of The American Board Of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) during the years 2020-2021. Mike is a Fellow in The American College Of Trial Lawyers and he is the Course Director of The Jack Daniels ABOTA Trial School at Loyola Law School. Mike is the 2022 recipient of the Lee B. Wenzel ABOTA Civility Award which is the highest honor given by the Los Angeles Chapter of ABOTA.



Genie Harrison
Genie Harrison Law Firm

Genie Harrison, of the Genie Harrison Law Firm, APC, is a top women's rights lawyer handling sexual harassment, equal pay, and other employment cases. Genie is lead counsel for the women of Riot Games who secured a record breaking \$100 million settlement plus major workplace reforms. She was counsel for Harvey Weinstein's former personal assistant in her sexual harassment case and for other women against Weinstein. Genie was part of the team that secured a \$17 million for Weinstein's victims.

Genie was the 2021 President of Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, which is the largest local plaintiff attorney organization in the country. She has been listed for seven years by Super Lawyers as one of the Top 10 Southern California Super Lawyers. Best Lawyers in America named her the 2022 Plaintiff Employment Lawyer of the Year for Los Angeles. Lawdragon consistently names her one of the Top 500 Leading Plaintiff Employment Lawyers in the Country. California's Daily Journal lists Ms. Harrison as one of the Plaintiff-side Top Labor & Employment Lawyers in the state and one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California.

Genie's cases regularly garner media attention, and she is often interviewed and quoted across all media outlets.



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Lourdes DeArmas
Chang | Klein LLP

Lourdes DeArmas represents plaintiffs in catastrophic personal injury, premises liability, sexual abuse, and wrongful death cases. Lourdes is a member of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates ("ABOTA"), where she serves as an Instructor at the Los Angeles ABOTA Jack Daniels Trial School.

Lourdes' passion is advocating for her clients in the courtroom. Just in the last couple of years, Lourdes has had multiple trials resulting in several 7 figure jury verdicts. Most notably, Lourdes obtained back to back jury verdicts that were 4x the defendant's insurance policy with minimal offers going into trial.

Lourdes previously represented clients in a variety of cases from contractual disputes, class actions, amusement park injury, wrongful death litigation, catastrophic personal injury, insurance bad faith, and educational fraud. Most notably, Lourdes represented over 800 inmates of the California Department of Corrections in cases involving inadequate medical care and treatment. She also represented over 22 named plaintiffs and a certified class of former students alleging that the post-secondary school violated the California's Education Code and consumer protection laws by falsely claiming that school was accredited. The case culminated in a multi-million dollar settlement.

Lourdes is a member of Chang | Klein LLP.



Lauren Lofton
Yoka | Smith LLP

Lauren Lofton is a Partner at Yoka | Smith LLP. She is an experienced litigation and trial attorney with a practice that includes the defense of businesses and individuals in catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, and business tort matters at the trial and appellate court levels. She also handles litigation involving liability for third-party intentional torts and/or crime. Lauren has litigated and tried matters in counties throughout California.

Lauren is an Associate Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). She was appointed to the Los Angeles County Bar Association President's Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession. She is also a member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, Langston Bar Association, and National Association of Women Judges. Prior to joining Yoka | Smith LLP, Lauren's legal practice included the defense of health care professionals and entities in malpractice actions and handling employment law matters. She also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Erithe A. Smith, United States Bankruptcy Court Judge for the Central District of California.

Lauren is a graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law and obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California.



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Mary R. Fersch
*Daniels, Fine, Israel,
Schonbuch & Lebovits, LLP*

Mary Fersch is a partner and trial attorney at Daniels, Fine, Israel, Schonbuch & Lebovits, LLP. Mary's practice is primarily focused on defending individual and corporate clients in matters arising out of personal injury, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. She handles a variety of cases including motor vehicle accidents, shootings, falls, drownings, explosions, and fires. Mary's experience extends to the areas of general negligence, commercial transportation, products liability, premises liability, and mass torts.

Prior to joining the firm, Mary was a law fellow in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) fellowship program. Mary attended undergraduate at UCLA (Go Bruins!) and law school at Loyola Law School. During law school, Mary was involved in Trial Advocacy, Moot Court, and Law Review. She clerked at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. She also served as a judicial extern for Justice Fred Woods of the California Court of Appeal, Second District.

Mary dedicates her time to bar activities through her service as a Committee Chair for the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (ASCDC), LACBA's President's Advisory Committee for Women in the Legal Profession, and as a liaison to LACBA's Litigation Section Executive Committee. She was named 2020-2021 Super Lawyers Rising Star.



Elizabeth Hernandez
Dordick Law Corporation

Elizabeth A. Hernandez is an attorney at Dordick Law Corporation in Beverly Hills. Ms. Hernandez's areas of practice include catastrophic personal injury, premises liability and wrongful death cases. She was selected for the Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers 2021. She was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 22nd (2016) through 28th (2022) Editions of The Best Lawyers in America for her work in Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs. She has also been selected to the 2022, 2021 and 2020 Southern California Super Lawyers list. Her professional memberships include: (1) Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) - 2022 Executive Committee: Treasurer, which means she will be President of CAALA in 2026, and she is currently an Emeritus Board Member, (2) Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) – 2022 Board Member, 2020 Executive Committee - Women's Caucus Representative; (3) Mexican American Bar Association – 2022 Board Member: Secretary, 2021 Vice-President, 2020 Membership Director; and 2019 Trustee, (4) Latina Lawyers Bar Association, and (5) The American Association for Justice. Ms. Hernandez has been a speaker at various seminars and has also written articles which have been published in CAALA's Advocate journal, CAOC's Forum magazine, and Plaintiff magazine. She obtained her J.D. from Southwestern University and her undergraduate degree from UCLA.



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Molly Murphy
Jury/Trial Consultant

Molly M. Murphy is a Trial Consultant and a Mediator in Marina Del Rey, California. Over the last 28 years, Ms. Murphy has consulted on over 950 cases throughout the country. Ms. Murphy has consulted on cases involving medical mal-practice, traumatic brain injury, severe personal injury, employment, sexual harassment, real estate, wrongful death, asbestos, PCB, breach of contract, police misconduct, falsifying records, civil rights, premise liability, product liability, transportation, legal malpractice, defamation, pharmaceutical, security fraud, insurance bad faith, murder, attempted murder, rape and gang related crimes. In addition, Ms. Murphy has mediated over 190 cases involving simple to complex matters. Ms. Murphy has a Master's Degree of Dispute Resolutions from Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interpersonal Communication with disciplines in Journalism, and Business. Ms. Murphy is a faculty member with the ABOTA Jack Daniels Trial School and has been a guest speaker at Pepperdine Law School, DRI, the Los Angeles Consumer Attorney Association and numerous Bar Associations. She is a member of the American Society of Trial Consultants, CAALA, and an Associate member of the California Bar, a Steering Committee member of The Civil Justice Program, affiliated with Loyola Law School and is a Diplomate of The American Academy of Certified Consultants & Experts.



Claire Plotkin
Jury Consultant

Claire Plotkin is a Los Angeles based jury consultant who works primarily on the plaintiff side in all kinds of civil cases, including personal injury, employment, product liability, and sexual misconduct. She has had many seven and eight figure verdicts, including many in 2021. In summer 2021, she picked the jury for the highest PI verdict ever in the Burbank courthouse.

She loves teaching the essentials of a good jury selection to lawyers and has consulted alongside many lawyers on their first jury selections ever.

From the Court:



Judge Ruth Ann Kwan
Los Angeles Superior Court
Co-chair, Diversity Inclusion
Working Group



Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor
Los Angeles Superior Court
Co-chair, Diversity Inclusion
Working Group
Introduction * Closing Remarks



Judge Yvette M. Palazuelos
Los Angeles Superior Court

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