

Superior Court of California,  
County of Los Angeles  
Media Relations  
111 N. Hill St., Room 107,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

# NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS

Diversity Inclusion Working Group

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**Media Relations**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**August 16, 2022**

## **ATTORNEYS: SIGN UP NOW FOR A MCLE-APPROVED TRAINING ON CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE DIRECT AND CROSS EXAMINATIONS**

Join attorney experts on August 25 for a free virtual demonstration and roundtable discussion on how to effectively conduct direct and cross examination of a witness. Sponsored by the Diversity Inclusion Working Group, the third program in the Civil Trial Advocacy series includes:

- A “Nuts and Bolts” lecture on direct and cross examination of a witness with perspectives from plaintiff and defense counsel;
- A mock direct and cross examination of a witness demonstration; and
- A roundtable session with feedback and tips from the presenters.

Attorneys of all levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The session is eligible for a 2-hour MCLE credit. (*The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles is a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider.*)

**[Register HERE by 5 p.m. August 24, 2022](#)**

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

**WHEN:** Noon – 2 p.m., August 25, 2022

**PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:**  
(*Bios attached*)

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor  
J. Bernard Alexander, III  
Minh T. Nguyen  
Roxanne M. Wilson

Judge Yolanda Orozco  
Susan Leader  
John E. Sweeney

The event is co-sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Association of Business Trial

**-MORE-**

## WITNESS EXAMINATION

2-2-2-2

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](mailto:MGory@lacourt.org).

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# LASC CIVIL TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

## EXAMINATION OF A WITNESS

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**J. Bernard Alexander, III**  
*Partner, Alexander Morrison +  
Fehr LLP*  
Examination Nuts & Bolts

Bernard Alexander of Alexander Morrison + Fehr LLP, is a plaintiff employment and civil rights trial attorney, who has tried over 60 cases to verdict, often with 7, 8, 9 and 10-figure verdicts, including the October 2021, \$136.9 million verdict in *Diaz v. Tesla*, the largest single plaintiff race harassment verdict in history. While president of the California Employment Lawyer Association (“CELA”, 1,300 members), in 2014, Bernard created an annual employment trial college that has graduated over 350 attorneys. He has been recognized as a Super Lawyer since 2009, and has been recognized as one of the Top 10 Attorneys in Southern California for 2021 and 2022. He is featured on the cover of the 2022 Super Lawyer’s magazine cover [with a featured article](#). He is consistently recognized by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 attorneys, and one of the Top 75 Employment Lawyers in California. Bernard is a member of ABOTA, a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment, a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a recipient of the Joe Posner Award (2016) and Jim Robie Professionalism & Civility Award (2020), an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, and a Trustee of his alma mater, Southwestern University School of Law.

Bernard is a past president of CELA (2014); past president and current vice president of the Foundation for Advocacy Inclusion and Resources (FAIR), a non-profit devoted to promoting diversity in the plaintiffs’ employment bar which establishes fellowships and opportunities for students and lawyers from diverse backgrounds to practice employment law; an executive board member of the National Employment Lawyers Association; a board member of San Francisco’s Legal Aid at Work; and a lifetime member of both the Langston Bar Association and the UCLA Alumni Association.

Bernard holds degrees from Southwestern University School of Law and the University of California, Los Angeles, in English and Political Science, and practices in state and federal court.



**Susan Leader**  
*Partner, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich  
& Rosati*  
Examination Nuts & Bolts

Susan Kay Leader is a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she litigates and tries cases in high-stakes commercial matters and class actions in federal and state courts. She has been first chair in more than a dozen trials, and her clients include global leaders in entertainment, communications, hospitality, funds, and renewable energy. Her broad base of experience includes tort and contract claims, RICO, employment disputes, franchise law violations and copyright and trademark infringement.

Susan has been recognized twice in the Los Angeles Business Journal’s “Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers” list; was included in its 2020 “Thriving in Their 40s” rankings; and honored in its 2019 “Most Influential Women Lawyers” list. She was included in The Legal 500 U.S. under “General Commercial Disputes” from 2019 to 2020 and also the 2020 “Client Service All-Stars” list by BTI Consulting Group.

Susan is a past president of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. She is also a member of the Complex Court Committee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association and a member of the board for Western Center on Law & Poverty. She is a sought-after instructor in trial advocacy, frequently lecturing in southern California and overseas.



**Minh T. Nguyen**  
*Founder & Owner, Nguyen  
Lawyers  
Examination Demo*

Minh T. Nguyen is a trial lawyer for people. He is the principal lawyer at Nguyen Lawyers, A Law Corporation, a boutique seven person law firm that specializes in representing people who suffered serious bodily injuries. He serves on the executive committee of the Consumer Attorney Association of Los Angeles ("CAALA") and will be its president in 2023. He will be the first Asian-American president of CAALA. He earned his B.S. in Economics with a minor in Asian American Studies from UCLA and his J.D. from UC Hastings. Minh began his legal career at Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates. He has gone on to recover over \$150 million in settlements and verdicts for his clients. Minh is a past president of the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities, a nonprofit that raises money from lawyers and gives back to the community. Through his leadership, LATLC has given back over \$5 million to the community through programs such as scholarships to high school seniors, sponsorships of youth sports, and the building of special tricycles for children with disabilities. Minh also serves on the Board of Directors of LINC Housing, a nonprofit which develops affordable homes for low wage earners, veterans, and people with disabilities. He believes in justice for every man, woman, and child regardless of age, race, gender or sexual orientation.

He is married to his high school sweetheart and has two children in high school.

He has completed three full Ironman races, plays competitive baseball, and is a rabid Dodgers fan.



**John E. Sweeney**  
*Principal, The Sweeney Firm  
Examination Demo*

John E. Sweeney, the son of a lawyer, has been fighting for justice for his clients for four decades. The driving force in his career has been to protect the rights of average citizens against the wrongs of large corporations and public entities.

After graduating from the University of Southern California and California College of Law in the '70s, he was hired at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office by then Assistant District Attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. When Mr. Cochran left the District Attorney's Office to reestablish his private practice, Mr. Sweeney joined him where they worked on some of the largest civil rights cases in U.S. history.

In the early '80s, Mr. Sweeney founded The Sweeney Firm in Beverly Hills and has specialized in serious personal injury and civil rights cases.

Mr. Sweeney has had over 200 jury trials over the course of his career, many resulting in 7-figure verdicts for injured individuals. Mr. Sweeney is only the second African-American lawyer in the history of the State Bar of California to be nominated for its Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame.

Mr. Sweeney is in high demand as a speaker on trial tactics and strategy and the American judicial system.

Mr. Sweeney has received many awards including:

2022 – Los Angeles Business Journal Community Impact Award

2021 – Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) Street Fighter of the Year Award

2021 – California Lawyer of the Year Award presented by the San Francisco/Los Angeles Daily Journal newspapers.

2017 – National Bar Association Trial Master Award. This was the inaugural award given by this organization which has been in existence since 1925.

2012– Drum Major For Justice Award given by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition civil rights organization.

Mr. Sweeney is an avid sportsman, having scaled 19,000 ft. Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, and plays tennis regularly. He is a lifelong member of the venerable Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles. He divides his time between residences in Los Angeles and La Quinta. For 40 years, he has been married to Cheryl Blanchard Sweeney and they have one adult daughter.

Mr. Sweeney has been invited to fellowship in several invitation only/highly selective Bar societies, and sits on the National Board of Directors for the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).





**Roxanne M. Wilson**  
*Counsel, ArentFox Schiff LLP*  
Moderator

Roxanne is an experienced litigator, successfully representing clients on various employment matters. Roxanne focuses her practice on employment matters, including the defense of employment class actions, providing advice and counsel, and conducting workplace investigations and auditing. She also has related litigation experience in pharmaceutical and products liability litigation and class action suits involving violations of federal and state consumer credit reporting statutes, Unfair Competition Law, and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

Roxanne has been active in LACBA for many years. Since 2019, she has been the Co-Chair of the LACBA President's Advisory Committee on Women in the Legal Profession. Her past involvement includes serving as Chair of the Litigation Section (2014-15), Ass't Vice President of the Board of Trustees (2016-17), and member of the Judicial Appointments Committee (2015-21).



**Judge Yolanda Orozco**  
*Los Angeles Superior Court*  
Trial Judge; Witness Examination

Judge Yolanda Orozco was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court on December 6, 2010. She has presided over an unlimited jurisdiction civil department at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for approximately five years. Judge Orozco previously presided over a misdemeanor trial court, and in the probate, limited civil and personal injury departments.

Before taking the bench, Judge Orozco spent much of her legal career as a trial lawyer and business litigator, specializing in complex commercial and business litigation. Judge Orozco began her career in government service, first as a trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., then at the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Los Angeles. Thereafter, she spent over 20 years in private practice, most recently with the international law firm of Jones Day where she was a partner.

Until recently, Judge Orozco was the chair of the Court's Diversity Committee. The Diversity Committee is responsible for a number of community outreach programs for youth and practicing attorneys. She is currently a member of the Court's Fairness and Access Committee, the Diversity Inclusion Working Group, and the Judicial Mentor Program. Judge Orozco just completed a 3-year term as a member of the board of the California Judges' Association and is currently a member of the board of the Los Angeles County Law Library. Judge Orozco is a member of the California Latino Judges' Association, the Mexican American Bar Association, and a Trustee of the Mexican American Bar Foundation.

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### A Special Thanks to:



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



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

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

