Litigation Skills

Enhancing Your Skills: Walker v. Brewster & Safe Security

A Case Involving an Accidental Shooting

Observe some of the best lawyers in the country conduct a full mock litigation of a complex multi-defendant case.

Four modules: how to prepare corporate witnesses for deposition, how to depose sympathetic fact witnesses, how to cross-examine expert witnesses, and how to handle evidentiary hearings.

Mock exercises, presentations on best practices, and hands-on learning experiences.

Improve your skills while networking with attorneys and clients from around the country.

March 18–20, 2020

Paris Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV
The 2020 seminar will feature litigation skills modules on four phases of litigation. Watch some of the best trial lawyers in the country litigate *Walker v. Brewster & Safe Security*, a case arising out of the paralysis of a five-year-old child who was accidentally shot by his half-brother at a college basketball game. Mock litigation sessions will include learning cutting-edge techniques for preparing a corporate representative for deposition, how to depose difficult and sympathetic fact witnesses/parties, how to cross-examine well-trained experts on liability and damages, and how to handle oral argument on a motion for summary judgment. These interactive, hands-on sessions will provide members of the audience with a unique opportunity to improve their skills. Please join us to learn from and network with some of the best trial lawyers in America, all while enjoying the great restaurants and entertainment that Vegas offers in March!
What You Will Learn

- Cutting-edge techniques for preparing a corporate representative for deposition
- How to depose sympathetic fact witnesses
- How to attack the opinions of expert witnesses effectively
- How to argue complex issues on summary judgment effectively
- How to utilize the latest and greatest technology at hearings, during depositions, and in trials

Members Get More

- Access to LegalPoint™ at dri.org: Committee newsletters, seminar course materials, and other publications.
- Access to the DRI Litigation Skills Committee Community: Share articles, post blogs, and connect with others on the latest trends in your area of practice.
- Access to dri circles, where lawyer-to-lawyer connections happen. Search dri circles in your app store:

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

2:00 p.m.  Registration

3:00 p.m.  When Things Go Terribly Wrong: Ethics Lessons from the Dewey LeBoeuf Scandal
          This ethics presentation takes a look at what happened to one of the oldest and most prestigious law firms in the country, with more than 1,000 lawyers in 26 offices around the world. The firm’s demise has been called “one of the greatest law firm collapses of all time.” How did such a firm go from being the most prestigious to tabloid fodder in such a short time? More importantly, what lessons can we learn from this event that is as tragic as it is ironic?
          
          Kile T. Turner, Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner, Birmingham, AL

4:00 p.m.  Counter-Anchoring and the Reverse Reptile: The Offensive Use of Plaintiff’s Strategy for the Defense Lawyer
          Learn how to counter plaintiffs’ use of the reptile theory and to counter-anchor the damages plaintiffs seek at trial.
          
          Nicholas A. Rauch, Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson PA, Minneapolis, MN
          Mark A. Solheim, Larson King LLP, Saint Paul, MN

5:00 p.m.  Adjourn

6:00 p.m.  Networking Reception
          SPONSORED BY MDD Forensic Accountants

7:30 p.m.  Dine-Arounds  | Join colleagues and friends at selected restaurants for dinner (on your own). More details on-site.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7:00 a.m.  Registration

7:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

8:15 a.m.  Welcome and Introduction of Fact Pattern
          Jennifer Snyder Heis, Ulmer & Berne LLP, Cincinnati, OH
          Patrick M. Causey, Trenam Law, Saint Petersburg, FL

9:05 a.m.  Critical Analysis of T.J. Brewster’s Deposition
          Join Brandon Ehrie and John Owen as they discuss the approach taken for handling the deposition of T.J. Brewster. Questions, comments, and feedback are welcome.
          
          Brandon W. Ehrie, Lewis Wagner LLP, Indianapolis, IN
          John R. Owen, Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman PC, Glen Allen, VA

9:20 a.m.  Deposition of Plaintiff Tanya Walker
          Plaintiff Tanya Walker alleges that her five-year-old son, Jesse, was paralyzed after he was accidentally shot by T.J. Brewster, her 13-year-old son, with her ex-husband and co-defendant Scott Brewster’s handgun. But evidence suggests that Tanya was drinking heavily during the New Columbia State’s college basketball game and failed to supervise Jesse adequately.
          
          John F. Kuppens, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Columbia, SC

10:05 a.m. Critical Analysis of Tanya Walker’s Deposition
          Katy Lehman and John Kuppens lead the discussion on the deposition of Ms. Walker, seek-
John F. Kuppens, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Columbia, SC
Kathryn S. Lehman, King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, GA

10:20 a.m.  Refreshment Break

**MODULE TWO**

**Corporate Representative Depositions:** Learn cutting-edge techniques for preparing a corporate witness for deposition, then watch those techniques in action!

10:40 a.m.  **Introduction of New Facts Revealed in Discovery**
An update is provided on newly discovered evidence that provides a dramatic twist in the case.

10:45 a.m.  **A Radical Approach to Deposition of the Company Witness**
Watch as a corporate representative is prepared for the deposition live and on stage! Learn a new approach to company witness preparation, including specific tips and novel techniques to prepare the witness more effectively to testify.

Michael A. Gross, CogentEdge LLC, Saint Petersburg, FL

11:45 a.m.  Lunch (on your own)

11:45 a.m.  **Women's Networking Lunch**  |  Details to be provided.

1:15 p.m.  **Deposition of Safe Security Corporate Representative**
Thirteen-year-old T.J. Brewster sneaks a gun into a college basketball tournament game and accidentally shoots his 5-year-old half-brother, Jesse Walker. Plaintiff Tanya Walker brings a negligent security claim against Safe Security, alleging that Safe Security failed to prevent T.J. from bringing a loaded gun into the stadium. Evidence suggests that Safe Security was aware of a loophole in its security, but it failed to correct it. Evidence also suggests that T.J.'s father, co-defendant Scott Brewster, failed to secure the handgun safely.

Brigid M. Carpenter, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell Berkowitz PC, Nashville, TN

2:00 p.m.  **Critical Analysis of Corporate Representative Deposition**
Join Michael Gross, Brigid Carpenter, and Eddie Sikes for an interactive session discussing the corporate representative deposition.

Brigid M. Carpenter, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell Berkowitz PC, Nashville, TN
Michael A. Gross, CogentEdge LLC, Saint Petersburg, FL
Ewing E. (Eddie) Sikes III, Royston Rayzor, Brownsville, TX

**MODULE THREE**

**Expert Witness Depositions:** Learn how to cross examine well-trained experts on liability and damages.

2:15 p.m.  **Deposition of Plaintiff's Damages Expert, Dr. Carson Jones**
Plaintiff's medical expert, Dr. Carson Jones, opines that Tanya is entitled to receive $2.5 million in actual medical expenses, future medical expenses for Jesse's care, and loss of Jesse's companionship and services. Watch as a skilled litigator examines whether these damage claims are legitimate and reasonable.

Ricardo A. Woods, Burr & Forman LLP, Mobile, AL

3:00 p.m.  **Critical Analysis of Dr. Carson Jones**
Join Ricardo Woods and Chris Balch for this discussion on the deposition of plaintiff's damages expert, Dr. Carson Jones.

Christopher D. (Chris) Balch, Balch Law Group, Atlanta, GA
Ricardo A. Woods, Burr & Forman LLP, Mobile, AL

3:15 p.m.  Refreshment Break
SPONSORED BY  Acker & Whipple APC  Royston Rayzor Vickery & Williams LLP

3:40 p.m.  **Deposition of Plaintiff's Security Expert, Peyton Smith**
Tanya Walker's security expert, Peyton Smith, opines that Safe Security was negligent in failing to prevent T.J. from bringing a loaded handgun into the New Columbia State basketball game. Peyton Smith also opines that co-defendant Scott Brewster negligently failed to
secure the gun, which allowed T.J. to bring it to the game. But was it reasonable for Safe Security to stop T.J. from sneaking into the stadium? Watch a skilled litigator depose Peyton Smith on these complex liability issues.

Stacy L. Douglas, Collinson Daehnke Inlow & Greco, Torrance, CA

4:25 p.m. Critical Analysis of the Deposition of Peyton Smith
Stacy Douglas and David Goodman lead this interactive session with a discussion on the deposition of plaintiff’s security expert, Peyton Smith.

Stacy L. Douglas, Collinson Daehnke Inlow & Greco, Torrance, CA
David M. Goodman, Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP, Buffalo, NY

4:40 p.m. Adjourn
4:50 p.m. Litigation Skills Committee Business Meeting
6:00 p.m. Networking Reception
SPONSORED BY Robson Forensic Inc.

7:30 p.m. Dine-Arounds | Join colleagues and friends at selected restaurants for dinner (on your own). Electronic details to come soon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

7:00 a.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:15 a.m. Opening Remarks and Introduction
Pamela N. Lee, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP, Atlanta, GA

MODULE FOUR

Hearings: Learn how to prepare for and argue complex issues at hearings, including ways in which you can utilize technology to improve your arguments. The information you learn will apply to any number of motions, including motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss, and motions in limine.

8:20 a.m. Effective Use of Technology in the Courtroom
This technology ethics presentation will teach lawyers how cutting-edge technology can help them improve their effectiveness at hearings, during depositions, and in trials.

Stephen E. (Steve) Embry, The Embry Law Firm LLC, Louisville, KY

9:20 a.m. Mock Summary Judgment Hearing
The mock litigation concludes with a mock oral argument on Safe Security's motion for summary judgment. Two skilled litigators discuss what they do to prepare for summary judgment and other evidentiary hearings, and then they argue the complex issues in this case.

Emily C. Baker, Jones Day, Atlanta, GA
T. Sky Woodward, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Washington, DC

10:10 a.m. Critical Analysis of Summary Judgment Hearing
Stephen C. Pasarow, Knapp Petersen & Clarke PC, Glendale, CA

10:25 a.m. Refreshment Break
10:45 a.m. The Fine Art of Client–Trial Lawyer Communications
This panel discussion between trial lawyers and in-house attorneys who manage large litigation dockets will focus on defining best practices for communications before and during trial. What should you communicate without overcommunicating? What information needs to be communicated immediately and what can wait? How is the information best communicated?

John Henley, UPC Insurance, Saint Petersburg, FL
Michael McLaughlin, Reynolds American Inc., Greensboro, NC
W. Ray Persons, King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, GA

11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks
Pamela N. Lee, Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP, Atlanta, GA
In-House Counsel

In-house counsel are eligible for free registration to DRI seminars. In-house counsel are defined as licensed attorneys who are employed exclusively by a corporation or other private sector organization for the purpose of providing legal representation and counsel only to that corporation, its affiliates, or its subsidiaries. To qualify for free registration, in-house counsel must be a DRI member and a member of the DRI Corporate Counsel Committee or be sponsored by a DRI member who is both registered and has paid for the seminar. Nonmember in-house counsel may utilize this offer only once. This offer excludes the DRI Annual Meeting and the DRI Business Management Principles for Lawyers Seminar.

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CLE

This seminar has been approved for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California for up to 11 hours, including 1 hour of ethics credit. Accreditation has been requested from every state with mandatory continuing legal education (CLE) requirements. Certificates of attendance will be provided to each attendee. Attendees are responsible for obtaining CLE credits from their respective states. Credit availability and requirements vary from state to state; please check the DRI website at dri.org for the latest information for your state.

Registration Policy

Save $100 when you register by February 25, 2020. (See the registration form for pricing.) The registration fee includes course materials, continental breakfasts, refreshment breaks, networking receptions, and access to the DRI App. If you wish to have your name appear on the registration list distributed at the conference and receive the course materials in advance, DRI must receive your registration by March 3, 2020 (please allow 10 days for processing). Registrations received after March 3, 2020, will be processed on-site.

Refund Policy

The registration fee is fully refundable for cancellations received on or before March 3, 2020. Cancellations received after March 3 and on or before March 10, 2020, will receive a refund, less a $100 processing fee. Cancellations made after March 10 will not receive a refund, but a $100 certificate good for any DRI seminar within the next 12 months will be issued. All cancellations and requests for refunds must be made in writing, fax (312.795.0747) or email (seminars@dri.org) to DRI’s Accounting Department. Processing of refunds will occur within four weeks after the date of the seminar. All refunds will be processed in the same method that the payment was received. Substitutions may be made at any time without charge and must be submitted in writing.

Discounts

Group Discount The first and second registrations from the same firm or company are subject to the fees outlined previously. The registration fee for additional registrants from the same firm or company is $775, regardless of membership status if received on or before February 25, 2020. After February 25, the group rate is $875. All registrations must be received at the same time to receive the discount.

Travel Discounts DRI offers discounted meeting fares on various major air carriers for DRI Litigation Skills Seminar attendees. To receive these discounts, please contact Direct Travel, DRI’s official travel provider, at 800.840.0908. As always, to obtain the lowest available fares, early booking is recommended.

Hotel Accommodations

A limited number of discounted hotel rooms have been made available at the Paris Las Vegas, 3655 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

Take advantage of the group rate of $145 Single/Double with a $30 per room, per night resort fee in one of two ways:

1) Reserve online: Click here or visit dri.org and go to the "Book hotel" button.

2) Of contact the hotel directly at 877-603-4389 and mention the DRI Litigation Skills Seminar.

The hotel block is limited and rooms and rates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You must make reservations by February 25, 2020, to be eligible for the group rate. Requests for reservations made after February 25 are subject to room and rate availability.
FACULTY  

Emily C. Baker, Jones Day, Atlanta, GA  
Christopher D. (Chris) Balch, Balch Law Group, Atlanta, GA  
Brigid M. Carpenter, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell Berkowitz PC, Nashville, TN  
Patrick M. Causey, Trenam Law, Saint Petersburg, FL  
Stacy L. Douglas, Collinson Daehnke Inlow & Greco, Torrance, CA  
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Stephen E. (Steve) Embry, The Embry Law Firm LLC, Louisville, KY  
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Stephen C. Pasarow, Knapp Petersen & Clarke PC, Glendale, CA  
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Nicholas A. Rauch, Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson PA, Minneapolis, MN  
Ewing E. (Eddie) Sikes III, Royston Rayzor, Brownsville, TX  
Mark A. Solheim, Larson King LLP, Saint Paul, MN  
Kile T. Turner, Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner, Birmingham, AL  
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Women in the Law
The Scottsdale at McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale, AZ

January 30–31
Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability
Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

February 5–7
Product Liability Conference
New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA

February 20–21
Toxic Torts and Environmental Law
Pointe Hilton Tapatio Resort, Phoenix, AZ

March 26–27
Medical Liability and Health Care Law
Hilton Austin Downtown, Austin, TX

April 1–3
Construction Law
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, IL

April 1–3
Insurance Coverage and Claims Institute
Swissôtel Chicago, Chicago, IL

April 29–May 1
Life, Health, Disability and ERISA
Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

April 30–May 1
Trucking Law
JW Marriott Austin, Austin, TX

May 6
Cannabis Law
Boston Marriott Copley, Boston, MA

May 6–8
Drug and Medical Device Litigation
Boston Marriott Copley, Boston, MA

May 7–8
Retail and Hospitality Litigation
Walt Disney World Dolphin and Swan Resort, Orlando, FL

May 14–15
Business Litigation Super Conference
Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, MN

May 14–15
Intellectual Property Litigation
Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, MN

May 15
Fidelity and Surety Roundtable
Gleacher Center and InterContinental Chicago, Chicago, IL

May 20–22
Employment and Labor Law
Hilton Denver City Center, Denver, CO

Diversity and Inclusion in DRI: A Statement of Principle

DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation. Diversity is a core value at DRI. Indeed, diversity, which includes sexual orientation, is fundamental to the success of the organization, and we seek out and embrace the innumerable benefits and contributions that the perspectives, backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences a diverse membership provides.

Inclusiveness is the chief means to increase the diversity of DRI’s membership and leadership positions. DRI’s members and potential leaders are often also members and leaders of other defense organizations. Accordingly, DRI encourages all national, state, and local defense organizations to promote diversity and inclusion in their membership and leadership.

Harassment and Discrimination

DRI is committed to the policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, national origin and disability in all of its programs and activities, as well as maintaining an environment in our programs and activities which is free from all forms of harassment or discrimination of any kind. Pursuant to this policy, if any person who attends our programs or activities experiences unlawful discrimination or harassment, this should be reported to the Executive Director so that appropriate action may be taken.
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*As defined on page 5

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