

Nuts and Bolts: Trial Skills Series

During the first four months of 2012, the Clark County Bar Association **Nuts and Bolts** program will present four lectures on **Basic Trial Skills** by local expert practitioners. The format will be the same – a two hour lecture at the Quay geared towards attorneys who are new to practice or who don't do a lot of litigation and might like to add it to their practice. See Hearsay and E-mailings for details of each lecture.

At the conclusion of the lecture series, we will offer a **Trial Skills Practical** full day of training. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice different aspects of their trial skills in an informal and supportive small-group environment with an experienced mentor to provide advice and feedback. The CLE committee is currently working on dates and coordinating mentors who will include experienced trial lawyers and Clark County Judges. The one day training will likely take place on a Saturday in late April or early May.

Places in the practical training will be limited and offered on a first-come first-served basis. Priority will be given to those who attend at least one of the trial skills lectures - sign ups will start in January. As a benefit to our members, the bar will be keeping the cost of this training down to the discounted Nuts and Bolts price of \$25 per CLE hour.

If you are interested in participating in the trial skills day and want further information or want to confirm your early interest, please contact Jane Clark, Chair of the CLE committee and coordinator of the Trial Skills program at jane@janeclarklegal.com.

Faculty

January 11th - Jury Selection



Thomas C. Phelan is a Criminal defense and Personal Injury lawyer in Vancouver. He has selected juries in dozens of criminal and civil cases, ranging from death penalty to simple misdemeanors to complex civil litigation. He is a member of the State and Federal bars in Oregon and Washington, and is admitted to practice before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, The United States Court of Claims, and The United States Supreme Court.

Jill D. Schmid, Ph.D., Tsongas Trial Consultants, received her masters and doctorate from the University of Washington's School of Communication where she focused her studies and research on communication theory, message framing, narratives, visual advocacy, attitude formation and change, and argumentation.



Jill consults on pre-trial, case, mediation, and arbitration strategy, courtroom communication, pre-trial research, witness preparation, jury selection, and post-trial analysis.

February 8 - Opening Statements and Closing Arguments



Steve Thayer (Criminal Trials) has recovered millions of dollars over the years for victims injured in auto and motorcycle accidents. He has also tried and won criminal cases involving all kinds of charges including Assault, Drug Delivery, DUI, Robbery, Sexual Assault, Vehicular Homicide, and First Degree Murder, and successfully defended marijuana grow cases throughout the Northwest.



Don Jacobs (Civil Trials) has practiced personal injury and insurance law in the Portland/Vancouver area since 1979. He is currently a sole practitioner with offices in Vancouver and Portland, where he exclusively represents injured consumers.

March 14 - Direct Examination, Cross Examination and Examination of Experts



David T. McDonald (Criminal Trials) has practiced Criminal Defense in the Portland/Vancouver area since 1986. A representative case load includes representation of individuals facing allegations of Murder in the First Degree, Assault of a Child in the First Degree, Unlawful Possession of Child Pornography, Child Sexual Offenses, Controlled Substances Offenses, Assault in the Second Degree, Felony Property Crimes, Mortgage Fraud, Money Laundering, Violations of Supervised Release and Probation and DUII. He also represents individuals in front of administrative boards and the Oregon State Bar.



Jane Clark (Civil Trials) has 20 years of experience handling Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice actions. She is an adjunct professor at Portland State University where she teaches a class on Psychology and the Law. She is a mediator in the area of Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice and a member of the USA&M mediation panel.

April 11th Trial Procedures - Jury Instructions, Trial Briefs, Exhibits, Preserving Issues for Appeal



Judge Roger A. Bennett, (Ret.) rose to be Chief Deputy in the Clark County Prosecutor's office before moving to the Superior Court bench, where he was elected six times and presided over 500 jury trials and over one thousand bench trials and contested hearings.

During 10 years as a prosecutor **James D. Senescu** prosecuted over 100 jury trials involving domestic violence, child abuse, guardianship and person crimes, homicides and major felonies. He is now in private practice as a partner of Dimitrov, Senescu & Bennett, PLLC emphasizing the litigation of cases involving abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults including guardianships, probates and civil litigation.

