



Oral Argument: The Advocate and Client Perspective

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT

Dear IADC Member:

Please join us for a complimentary Webinar (Web-based seminar produced through Adobe Connect) sponsored by the IADC Amicus Curiae Committee, Appellate Practice Committee, Corporate Counsel Committee, Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee, and Trial Techniques and Tactics Committee on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 for one (1) hour beginning at:

10:00 AM PDT / 11:00 AM MDT / 12:00 PM Noon CDT / 1:00 PM EDT

HOW TO REGISTER:

ONLINE REGISTRATION! Although there is no fee to attend, you must register so that the IADC can plan accordingly for the number of interested participants. [Click here](#) to register online. You must be logged in with your IADC username and password in order to register. If you are registering multiple participants from the same firm, please register each participant individually.

We hope that you will join us for this exciting and informative program. If you have any questions, please contact **Melisa Maisel Vanis, Professional Development Manager**, at mmaisel@iadclaw.org or by telephone at 312.368.1494.

THE PRESENTATION:

Oral Argument: The Advocate and Client Perspective

How does the client view oral argument? How does an experienced appellate advocate prepare for and present argument, and advise the client about it? Hear perspectives from experienced in-house counsel and appellate lawyers on these topics.

THE MODERATOR:

M.C. Sungaila (mc.sungaila@haynesboone.com)

Appellate Partner, Haynes and Boone LLP, Costa Mesa, CA

Chair, IADC Amicus Curiae Committee

Immediate Past Chair, IADC Appellate Practice Committee

THE PRESENTERS:

Michael Higginbotham (mwhigginbotham@fedex.com)

FedEx Ground Package System, Inc., Moon Township, PA

Michael Higginbotham is a Managing Director in Litigation at FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. in Pittsburgh. He manages a team of attorneys responsible for government and commercial litigation, who serve as both first chair and co-counsel to outside counsel. Prior to his role with FedEx Ground, he was Senior and Lead Counsel at FedEx Express in Memphis, where he was responsible for a national docket that included a broad range of commercial and employment matters. Michael graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1993, and served as an Assistant District Attorney General in the 18th Judicial District in Tennessee until 1996. He was then in private practice in Memphis in civil litigation until joining FedEx in 2004.

Michael has been a member of the IADC since 2013. He previously served on the Professionalism and Ethics Committee of the Tennessee Bar Association, as a board member of the Mid-South Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and as Barrister in the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court.

Heather Bailey New (hn095m@att.com)

AT&T Senior Legal Counsel, Dallas, TX

Heather Bailey New is an Executive Director, Senior Legal Counsel at AT&T, handling appellate litigation matters. Ms. New moved in-house earlier this year after practicing civil appellate litigation in private practice for more than 18 years. She was a partner and head of the appellate practice group at Bell Nunnally & Martin, LLP, in Dallas from 2013 to 2016. While there, Ms. New provided her clients appellate assistance both in the appellate court and at trial: drafting dispositive motions, helping to preserve error, arguing the jury charge. After clerking at the Texas Supreme Court for Justice Priscilla Owen in 1998, Ms. New practiced appellate litigation at Haynes and Boone, LLP for 14 years. Throughout her career, Ms. New has written hundreds of briefs and has argued cases before multiple federal and state appellate courts in cases involving a wide range of substantive issues.

Sonia Escobio O'Donnell (sodonnell@cfjblaw.com)

Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, Miami, FL

Following her clerkship for the Honorable Peter T. Fay in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Sonia Escobio O'Donnell became an assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida where she was involved in civil and criminal trials and appellate litigation. As an assistant for approximately 16 years, she participated in criminal cases, wrote and argued criminal appeals, supervised the appellate division, and became the Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney and Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney. As the Executive Assistant, she had management and supervisory duties for all areas of the office, she reviewed and approved indictments, coordinated and created the program for the Drug Task Force in Miami (HIDTA), and drafted and/or argued major motions in high-profile criminal cases. As Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney, she advised the U.S. Attorney on major legal issues in the office. She was assigned to the civil division for three years where she defended lawsuits against the United States. In private practice she represents corporations in civil litigation in both the trial and appellate levels. She advises clients on issues of grand jury subpoenas and white collar defense. She has litigated, at both the trial and appellate levels, issues of Indian tribal sovereignty and immunity, Indian gaming (Indian Gaming Regulatory Act), as well as constitutional and environmental issues. She has filed merits and amicus briefs, as well as certiorari petitions, in the United States Supreme Court. She has briefed and argued hundreds of cases in federal appellate courts and has also briefed and argued cases in the state courts.

Sabrina Perel (Sabrina.perel@nfl.com)

NFL Compliance Counsel, New York, NY

Sabrina Perel is Special Counsel for Compliance, NFL. Ms. Perel joined the NFL in May 2013 after having practiced law in private practice and as in-house counsel, including eight years practicing commercial litigation with the firm of Riker Danzig in Morristown, New Jersey and 15 years practicing as in-house counsel to Kroll Inc. in New York City. Ms. Perel served for 10 years as Executive Vice-President and General Counsel to Kroll, a global risk advisory services firm. During Ms. Perel's tenure, Kroll provided services in corporate investigations and security consulting; electronic discovery, computer forensics and data recovery; employment and security clearance screening; mortgage screening; corporate advisory and restructuring consulting, and substance abuse testing. Ms. Perel managed the legal affairs of the company, including corporate governance, compliance, mergers and acquisitions, commercial and employment litigation, and regulatory matters; she also served as Corporate Secretary and was a long-standing member of the company's executive committee.

Since joining the NFL as Special Counsel for Compliance, Ms. Perel has conducted compliance training for NFL employees, addressed compliance-related inquiries, and is engaged in League-wide risk assessment activities.

IADC Webinars are made possible by a grant from The Foundation of the IADC.

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