2020 Virtual Annual Meeting Speaker Biographies

Helen Kathryn Downs
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A seasoned trial lawyer and adept communicator, Helen Kathryn Downs has advised major corporations for more than two decades, managing risk and spotlighting compelling legal defenses. In 2017, Helen Kathryn founded a forward-looking law firm – Law in Motion: Downs, LLC. This woman-owned firm embraces the latest neuroscience to enhance persuasion and client results. The firm also offers advisory and litigation services for cutting-edge technologies, such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, facial recognition and other biometrics, drones, and robotics, as well as more traditional practice areas.

Helen Kathryn has been recognized by Who's Who in Legal Product Liability Defence & Life Sciences, CVN's Top 10 Defense Verdicts (2016), America's Top 100 Litigators – Alabama (2019), Alabama Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers in America, and her 15th year with an AV-Preeminent rating by Martindale Hubbell. She's a lifelong student of effective communication, creative thinking, and legal innovation.

Clients and colleagues describe Helen Kathryn as a candid strategist – pragmatic, perceptive, and fiercely curious. Based on client feedback, she adroitly translates complex information into plain terms, swiftly building credibility with judges, jurors, and other lawyers. Her personal warmth, authenticity, and incisive analysis bolster her skillset.

Helen Kathryn obtained a B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill and J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. At UVA, she and her partner, Jason Brener, won the Lile Moot Court Competition, and Helen Kathryn received the Stephen R. Traynor Award for Oral Advocacy.