



Oral Argument Before the Highest Court in the State or Land: Unique Considerations in Argument Preparation and Presentation

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017
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 Appellate Practice Committee, Amicus Curiae Committee, Corporate Counsel Committee, Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee, and Trial Techniques and Tactics Committee on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 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 Before the Highest Court in the State or Land: Unique Considerations in Argument Preparation and Presentation

Arguing before the highest court in a jurisdiction presents unique issues in preparation and presentation. Our panelists, with experience arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court and state supreme courts, will share their tips.

THE MODERATOR:

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

Carlton Fields Jordan 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.

THE PRESENTERS:

John Elwood (jelwood@velaw.com)

Vinson & Elkins LLP, Washington, DC

John Elwood is an appellate partner in the Washington, DC office of Vinson & Elkins LLP and adviser to the University of Virginia School of Law's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. John has argued nine cases in the Supreme Court of the United States and has appeared before most of the federal courts of appeals. He is a regular contributor to the Supreme Court legal blog SCOTUSblog. John has been named as *AmLaw Litigation Daily's* "Litigator of the Week" and as a *Law360* "Appellate MVP," and his work has been recognized by the *Financial Times'* "North American Innovative Lawyers" issue for two years running. In 2016, he was inducted into the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Before joining V&E, John served for seven years as the senior deputy in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel and as an Assistant to the Solicitor General. John received both the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service—the Justice Department's two top awards for lawyers. John is a former law clerk to Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and the late Judge J. Daniel Mahoney of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Princeton University.

Caitlin Halligan (challigan@gibsondunn.com)

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, New York, NY

Caitlin J. Halligan is a litigation partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn's Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group. She has argued six cases and served as counsel of record for a party or amicus in more than 45 matters at the certiorari or merits stage in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Halligan has argued dozens of cases before the federal appellate courts, the New York Court of Appeals, and New York's intermediate appellate courts, and participated in numerous litigations at the trial level as well.

Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Ms. Halligan served as General Counsel to the New York County District Attorney's Office. From 2001 to 2007, Ms. Halligan served as Solicitor General for the State of New York, where she represented the state in federal and state appellate courts and supervised a team of 45 lawyers. Prior to serving as New York Solicitor General, she was First Deputy Solicitor General. From 1999 to 2000, Ms. Halligan was the first Chief of the New York Attorney General's Internet Bureau, where she developed law enforcement and policy initiatives regarding online consumer fraud, privacy, online securities trading and other Internet-related issues.

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

Haynes and Boone LLP, Costa Mesa, CA

M.C. Sungaila, an appellate partner at Haynes and Boone in Orange County, California, has served in various leadership positions within the IADC, including Chair of the Appellate Practice and Amicus Curiae Committees and Editor of the *Defense Counsel Journal*.

M.C. has repeatedly been named a “Notable Appellate Practitioner” by *Chambers USA, Chambers & Partners* (2013-2016). Clients describe her in one *Chambers* listing as a “gifted appellate lawyer who consistently delivers bottom line results” and praise her for her “great practical sense,” and her ability to “advise on the business side just as well as she does on the legal side.” She has been repeatedly recognized by the *Daily Journal* as one of California’s 100 Leading Women Lawyers (2005, 2010-2016) and in 2015 as one of the state’s Top Labor & Employment Lawyers. She was a recipient of a 2015 California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) award from *California Lawyer* magazine for the precedent setting franchisor vicarious liability case, *Patterson v. Domino’s Pizza*, and in 2016 for a precedent-setting transgender immigration case she argued before the Ninth Circuit.

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

The Foundation of the IADC is dedicated to supporting the advancement of the civil justice system through educational opportunities like these Webinars. For more information on The Foundation, visit www.iadcfoundation.org.