

American Board of Trial Advocates™



Washington Chapter Newsletter February 2022

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[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE](#)



We started the year off strong by having several of our Executive Members attend the ABOTA National Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ. There is more information on this below.

Going forward this year, and starting this month, we will be sending a monthly newsletter to update you on important events. We would like to make the WA ABOTA Chapter strong and we need your support. To do this, we recognize that you need to know what is happening within our organization. Because of our busy schedules, it is my hope that this newsletter will help to streamline the delivery of important information.

I hope you all have a great 2022 and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout this year.

Sincerely,
Ketia

FREE ETHICS CLE

The ABOTA Foundation is holding a free virtual ethics CLE on February 18, 2022. Registration can be found here https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uJhF8v52TkOVPPXqLUhPBQ This program is free to everyone. No need to be an ABOTA member. 1.0 Ethics Credit will be applied for with the WSBA.

Our current ABOTA National President, Lewis Sifford, will be the keynote speaker. If you are unable to attend, we will be holding a similar ethics CLE in July. Details to follow in June.

CIVIL LITIGATION TIP OF THE MONTH



With the prevalence of virtual practice around our state and the resulting changes, we are partnering with King County Superior Court to provide a “Civil Litigation Tip of the Month” by a designated superior court judge. This will help us improve our practices in these changing times and also get to know the judges a little better.

This month’s tip is from King County Judge Tanya Thorp. We are honored by this because Judge Thorp is our (Seattle) Chief Civil Judge for 2022. Judge Thorp was appointed to the King County Superior Court bench on May 1, 2014. Judge Thorp was the Chief Unified Family Court Judge in 2019. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Thorp worked for the Attorney General’s Office, where she litigated worker safety cases in Washington’s oil refineries. Before litigating worker safety cases, Judge Thorp worked for almost ten years in the Social and Health Services Division, where she litigated child welfare cases. Judge Thorp chairs the King County Superior Court Technology Committee and Ex Parte/Probate Committee. Judge Thorp also serves on the King County Superior Court Local Court Rules Committee and Family Law Committee. Judge Thorp holds a B.A. from the University of Washington and received her J.D. from Seattle University, School of Law.

February Tip: King County Superior Court recently changed how civil cases are assigned to judges. All civil cases regardless of designation (SEA and KNT) are assigned to all judges carrying a civil caseload regardless of the judicial officer's physical court location. This change was effective mid-November 2021. This change does not affect the commissioners or Ex Parte department. With the increase in remote hearings and trials, it is unlikely this change will substantially alter practice as civil trials have always been assigned out to any available judge regardless of courthouse location. However, there are a couple tips to remember. First, if you are setting a Chief Civil Judge motion, the case designation matters. KNT Chief Civil cases are still heard by the MRJC Chief Judge (Judge Shah) or heard on the Chief Civil calendar in Kent. SEA Chief Civil cases are still heard by the Chief Civil Judge (me) or heard on the Chief Civil calendar in Seattle. Second, if you are submitting paper working copies or original deposition transcripts, you will need to check the physical location of the assigned judicial officer.

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING/LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Washington Chapter had 7 members attend the ABOTA Leadership Conference and National Board Meeting in Tucson at the end of January. Leaders from more than 31 chapters attended this year's event. The conference sought input and ideas to improve involvement, increase membership, and educate everyone on the very important causes and programs that ABOTA supports, including:

- Teachers Law School - chapters nominate a teacher to attend a program that educates on civics and the 7th amendment
- James Otis Lecture Series - teaches about James Otis's central role in the foundation of our Constitution
- Civics Education Literacy Program - teaches education on the structure of government; rights and responsibilities
- Journalist Law School - chapters nominate a journalist to attend a program that educates on civics and the 7th amendment

- Justice By the People - provides an interactive curriculum to teach students about one of their most important rights as citizens, trial by jury

The next National Board Meeting is on May 12, 2022 in Chicago and will include additional programs on race and the trial of civil cases, and preservation of the rule of law. These meetings are a wonderful way to meet intelligent and successful trial attorneys around the country, and also bond with our own chapter board members who attend.

VOIR DIRE COMPETITION

It is our goal as a chapter to be very involved in civics education and the protection of the 7th Amendment. To this end, we will begin planning a voir dire competition between our three in-state law schools. The goal is to put on this program early next year to foster the education of our future lawyers and to pass on the knowledge and experience our members possess as trial lawyers. If you would like to be involved in this program, please email Nicole at abotawashington@gmail.com