

American Board of Trial Advocates™



Washington Chapter Newsletter March 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As you know, ABOTA supports many important education opportunities across the Country to help educate on the importance of the 7th Amendment right to jury trial. One of those programs includes the Journalist Law School Fellowship. I am happy to report that we have nominated Austin Jenkins and

his application has been submitted. Mr. Jenkins is the Olympia Correspondence for the Public Radio NW News Network.

Sincerely,
Ketia

FREE CLE

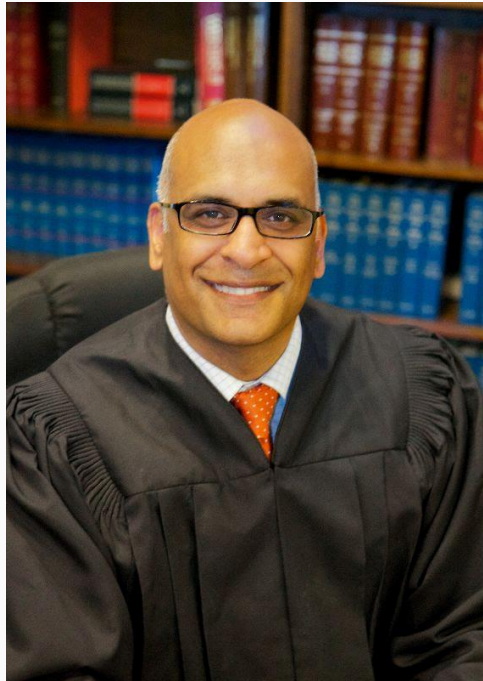
The ABOTA Foundation is holding a free virtual CLE on March 22, 2022. This program is free to everyone. No need to be an ABOTA member. 1.0 Credit will be applied for with the WSBA.

This CLE will focus on virtual trials and will feature ABOTA members Douglas M. DeGrave, 2021 ABOTA Foundation President and Randall O. Sorrels, 2019-2020 Texas State Bar President.

Register

at: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/WN_VMCRYOEIQAAR7W-2YJGYAA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/wn_vmcryoeiqaar7w-2yjgyaa)

CIVIL TRIAL TIP OF THE MONTH



This month's tip is from King County Judge Ketu Shah. Judge Shah was appointed to the King County Superior Court in May 2019. Previously, he served on the King County District Court from 2013 to 2019. Judge Shah has been a faculty member for Judicial College since 2017 and a Dean for Judicial College in 2019 & 2021. He is on Education and Therapeutic Court Committees, Minority and Justice Commission, and several other King County Superior Court Committees. He is currently the Chief MRJC Judge for 2022 after finishing a 2.5 year trial rotation. Judge Shah is a graduate of Whitman College and the University of Minnesota Law School where he was a Managing Editor for the Journal of Law and Inequality. As a lawyer, Judge Shah was a public defender intern and also prosecuted domestic violence cases for the City of Bellevue. Judge Shah had his own private practice focusing on immigration law, and as part of his work, volunteered extensively representing pro bono clients through API Chaya, ReWA, Immigrant Family Advocacy Project, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP).

March Tip: During the pandemic, King County Superior Court has implemented virtual trials for civil matters. As part of trial preparation, practitioners are expected to pre-load their exhibits into a cloud-based platform managed by the

Clerk's office. These exhibits are pre-marked per naming protocols established by the Clerk's office. These exhibits are then used in trial when practitioners examine witnesses and often there is a necessity for the witness to refer to the exhibits. A common method to review these exhibits is to share the practitioner's screen and display the exhibit. At times, the witness has difficulty seeing the document on the screen and can be cumbersome as documents are slow to upload to the screen being displayed. However, there is a work around that can assist the parties and make your presentation less awkward. You may consider sending an exact copy of the exhibit, whether proposed or admitted, to the witness in advance as a pdf so they can have the document in front of them when asked questions about it. If the practitioner has them clearly identified and paginated for the witness, then the witness can easily refer to the same document you are referring to. This method is preferable than having the witness pull the document from the cloud during examination, or viewing the screen, because then the parties do not have to rely on the strength of the witness connection with the cloud, or how comfortable the witness is with the technology. If they have a pdf version which is either pre-printed or opened on their screen already, it saves time and makes the presentation or examination go more smoothly.

ABOTA NATIONAL PROGRAMS

There are a number of critical issues that the legal community is dealing with, but the increased emphasis on diversity and inclusion within the legal field as well as the attacks on the rule of law, both in our country and internationally, require ABOTA's immediate attention.

On May 12 and 13 ABOTA will hold two CLE events at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. These events are being held in conjunction with the National Board Meeting. Both programs will feature prominent leaders in their fields and some of the best attorneys in the nation. CLE is available for both programs.

Dismissed with Prejudice: A Discussion on Race and the Trial of Civil

Cases - May 12

This program will promote civility and equality in the courtroom and this discussion is more important than ever. This program will be no cost to ABOTA Members and \$50 for non-ABOTA members.

The Preservation of the Rule of Law - May 13

This program is designed to provide an in-depth analysis of the Rule of Law and will include its history, its impact on the Framers, its current role in America, and how it is at risk of being diminished. The registration fee is \$249 for ABOTA members and \$299 for non-ABOTA members.

The ABOTA Foundation will apply for CLE for both programs. Please invite your firms and colleagues to participate in these two extraordinary programs. These events are open to all those in the legal community. This is a great time to join ABOTA at a National Board Meeting. These meetings are open to all ABOTA members and provide a prime opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the country during these top-tier networking and educational opportunities.

Register for both CLE Programs and the National Board Meeting at

https://www.abota.org/Online/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=22NBM2

MOCK TRIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2022 Washington Mock Trial State Competition is looking for volunteers to help judge the competition. The state tournament will host 24 teams which includes the need of 200 volunteers over the weekend.

Tournament Details

Round 1: Thursday, March 10th at 5:30pm

Round 2: Friday, March 11th at 5:30pm

Round 3: Saturday, March 12th at 9am

Round 4: Saturday, March 12th at 2pm

Info for volunteers:

- The tournament is held virtually this year.
- Each round lasts about 3 hours.
- You will need to watch the trial, fill out a scoresheet and offer brief and positive feedback to the participants.
- *You do not need any experience in Mock Trial to participate!*

[Register here to volunteer!](#) Or email directly at youthgov@seattlemca.org
