Appellate Oral Argument Workshop
Developed with the KCMA Appellate Practice Committee

Friday, April 4, 2014 • 2:00 PM – 4:20 PM
UMKC School of Law, E.E. “Tom” Thompson Courtroom
Credit: MO – 2 Hrs. / KS – 2 Hrs.
Cost: KCMA Member - $60 Non-Member - $80

DESCRIPTION

Have you ever left an appellate oral argument wishing you could find out how the judges thought you did – outside of their eventual opinion? This is your chance. This program is designed for any level of attorney, regardless of whether you are an experienced appellate practitioner or are new to appellate practice.

This workshop is different than most CLEs. It provides a unique opportunity to hone oral argument skills by viewing different oral argument styles and strategies from attorneys and hearing judges’ comments in a direct, hands-on, near-real-world environment.

Four attorneys have elected to be provided with a set of appellate briefs. The attorneys have been apportioned into sets of two and each designated either the appellant or the respondent. After studying the briefs and preparing as they would for an actual oral argument, each set of attorneys will present argument before a panel of distinguished state and federal appellate judges. The time allotted will be the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District’s standard 10 minutes for the appellant, 10 minutes for the respondent, and 3 minutes for appellant’s rebuttal.

Following the close of each argument, the judges will take some time and discuss counsel’s performance. After both arguments are complete, the judges will give general tips and pointers for oral argument, building on the arguments that took place.

SCHEDULE

2:00 p.m. Registration
2:30 p.m. Welcome
2:35 p.m. First Set of Arguments
Jonathan Sternberg, Jonathan Sternberg, Attorney, P.C.
Ruth Sanders, Law Office of Ruth B. Sanders, LLC
3:15 p.m. Second Set of Arguments
John A. Christiansen, Law Offices of John Adams Christiansen, LLC
Jeremiah Kidwell, Kidwell & Conkright
3:55 p.m. Tips from the Judges, Question-and-Answer
JUDGES
HON. ALOK AHUJA, MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT
HON. DUANE BENTON, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT
HON. MICHAEL BUSER, KANSAS COURT OF APPEALS
HON. GARY WITT, MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT

*Course materials will be provided in electronic format only and are accessible with your laptop, tablet or other mobile device during the event. Final course materials will be posted prior to the event at www.kccle.org, calendar, event, materials tab. Parking will be validated at the event.

**On-site registrations are welcome; however, seating and/or meals cannot be guaranteed unless you pre-register.