



District Court to Host “May it Please the Court:” Symposium on Women Lawyers in the Courtroom April 12, 2018

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will be hosting a complimentary symposium, “May it Please the Court:” Symposium on Women Lawyers in the Courtroom.

When: April 12, 2018
12:30-5:15 p.m.

Where: Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago

The symposium will discuss and promote strategies and best practices to empower women lawyers as lead counsel and trial counsel in litigation.

Topics include the following:

- **The Studies:** A discussion of the studies “If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR” and “The Participation of Women Lawyers as Lead Counsel and Trial Counsel in Litigation.”
- **In-House Counsel:** Corporations are positioning women as leaders on trial teams and promoting strategies to further increase women lawyer participation in their matters.
- **The Next Generation of Women Trial Lawyers:** Tips and strategies to gain trial experience in order to become lead trial counsel.
- **Managing Partners:** Best practices to increase the number of women in the courtroom.
- **A View from the Bench:** Judicial observations on the benefits of women as trial counsel and what can be done to increase the number women trying cases.

Register [here](#).

Registration is limited. **3.75 IL PR-MCLE Credit, subject to approval.** Chicago Bar Association is the course sponsor.

Symposium is sponsored by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Bar Association in conjunction with the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois and the Black Women Lawyers’ Association.

More details on panels below.

Complimentary!

May it Please the Court: Symposium on Women Lawyers in the Courtroom



A symposium to discuss and promote strategies and best practices to empower women lawyers as lead counsel and trial counsel in litigation.

Sponsored by:

United States District Court
The Chicago Bar Association

In conjunction with

Women's Bar Association of Illinois
Black Women Lawyers' Association

April 12, 2018 • 12:30-5:15 p.m.

Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn St., Chicago

Complimentary • Limit 375 persons
3.75 IL PR-MCLE Credit (subject to approval)

Registration and a list of confirmed speakers will be available soon at www.chicagobar.org/cle.

Subjects to be addressed include:

The Studies

A discussion of the studies "If Not Now When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR" and "The Participation of Women Lawyers as Lead Counsel and Trial Counsel in Litigation."

In-House Counsel

Corporations are positioning women as leaders on trial teams and promoting strategies to further increase women lawyer participation in their matters.

The Next Generation of Women Trial Lawyers

Tips and strategies to gain trial experience in order to become lead trial counsel.

Managing Partners

Best practices to increase the number of women in the courtroom.

A View from the Bench

Judicial observations on the benefits of women as trial counsel and what can be done to increase the number of women trying cases.



AGENDA

Welcome

(12:30-12:45 p.m.)

Hon. Ruben Castillo, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

Hon. Diane Sykes, United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

The Studies

(12:45-1:30 p.m.)

Stephanie Scharf co-authored "The Participation of Women Lawyers as Lead Counsel and Trial Counsel in Litigation" and uncovered the very low number of female lead trials lawyers in cases in Chicago. Retired Judge Shira Scheindlin co-authored "If Not Now When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR." This panel will provide valuable insights from these important studies.

Moderator:

Laurel Bellows, Managing Principal, The Bellows Group

Panelists:

Stephanie A. Scharf, Partner, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

Hon. Shira Scheindlin, Retired District Judge, US District Court, Southern District of New York

In House Counsel

(1:30-2:45 pm)

A panel of in house counsel will talk about efforts that companies are undertaking to ensure that women are on trial teams. One General Counsel will discuss changes she has made because of our 2016 symposium.

Moderator:

Leslie Smith, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Panelists:

Colleen Batcheler, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Conagra Brands

Dorothy G. Capers, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, National Express

Kristin Coleman, Executive Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, US Foods Holding Corp.

Ellen L. Farrell, Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Toyota Motor North America Inc.

Brad Lerman, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Medtronic

Laura J. Schumacher, Executive Vice President, External Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Abbvie

BREAK (2:45-3:00 p.m.)

The Next Generation of Women Trial Lawyers

(3:00-3:45 p.m.)

A panel of rising stars to discuss how they have gained trial experience and positioned themselves to become first chair of their case. How did they get the door open?

Moderator:

Lori E. Lightfoot, Partner, Mayer Brown LLP

Panelists:

Katrina Carroll, Life DePalma Greenberg LLC

Megan Cunniff Church, Molo Lamken LLP

Christina Farley Jackson, Federal Defender Program, Northern District of Illinois

Lindsay Jenkins, Deputy Chief, Public Corruption & Organized Crime Section, U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois

Andrea Roberts Pierson, Faegre Baker Daniels

Managing Partners

(3:45-4:30 p.m.)

A panel of law firm managing partners will discuss efforts they have made to foster and support the development of women trial lawyers in their firms.

Moderator:

Christina M. Egan, Partner, McGuireWoods LLP

Panelists:

Patricia Brown Holmes, Administrative Partner, Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP

Eileen M. Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP

Gil M. Soffer, Managing Partner, KattenMuchinRosenman LLP

Tina M. Tabacchi, Partner-in-Charge, Jones Day

A View From the Bench

(4:30-5:15 p.m.)

A panel of judges will talk about what judges observe in terms of lead female trial counsel and what judges can do to help increase the number of women trying cases. The judges will discuss helping young female lawyers get courtroom experience through appointments, mentoring, and encouraging women to have a role during trials and hearings. This session is intended to be interactive, so the judges welcome questions from audience participants and suggestions for additional steps judges might take to promote a diverse trial bar.

Moderator:

Hon. M. David Weisman, Magistrate Judge, US District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Panelists:

Hon. Tom Durkin, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Sara Ellis, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Celia G. Gamrath, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division

Hon. Arthur F. Hill Jr., Supervising Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division

Hon. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Closing

Hon. Amy J. St. Eve, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Patricia Brown Holmes, Administrative Partner, Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LL



CLE Registration

Women Lawyers in the Courtroom

April 12, 2018

Complimentary

Register online at www.chicagobar.org/cle.

Or return form:
Fax to 312-554-2054 or
[email seminars@chicagobar.org](mailto:emailseminars@chicagobar.org)

Name

Firm/Company

Address/City/State/Zip

CBA Account No.

Phone

Email (required)

ARDC No. (required)

Planning Committee

Hon. Amy J. St. Eve, United States District Court,
Northern District of Illinois (Chair)

Patricia Brown Holmes, Partner, Riley Safer Holmes &
Cancila LLP (Co-Chair)

Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman, United States District
Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Rebecca Pallmeyer, United States District Court,
Northern District of Illinois

Hon. David Weisman, United States District Court,
Northern District of Illinois

Kalia Coleman, Assistant United States Attorney,
Northern District of Illinois

Matt Crowl, Partner, Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP

Christina Egan, Partner, McGuireWoods LLP

Corinne C. Heggie, Counsel, Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

Melissa B. Hirst, Partner, Jones Day

Erica Kirkwood, Vice-President and General Counsel,
GMA Construction Group

Leslie M. Smith, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Meghan Stack, United States Attorney's Office,
Northern District of Illinois

INFORMATION:

CLE materials are available at www.chicagobar.org (click on CLE, Seminar Materials). You must be registered for the seminar in order to access the materials.

You will receive an e-mail 1-2 days before the seminar with instructions on how to download materials.

Accessible services are available for persons with disabilities. Please call 312-554-2056 or TDD 312-554-2055 to allow time to provide the necessary accommodations.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

No confirmation will be sent. All cancellations must be received in writing 24-hours prior to the seminar at seminars@chicagobar.org.