

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026
8:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
Tucson, Arizona

***** Featuring 5.5. hours of CLE, including ethics *****

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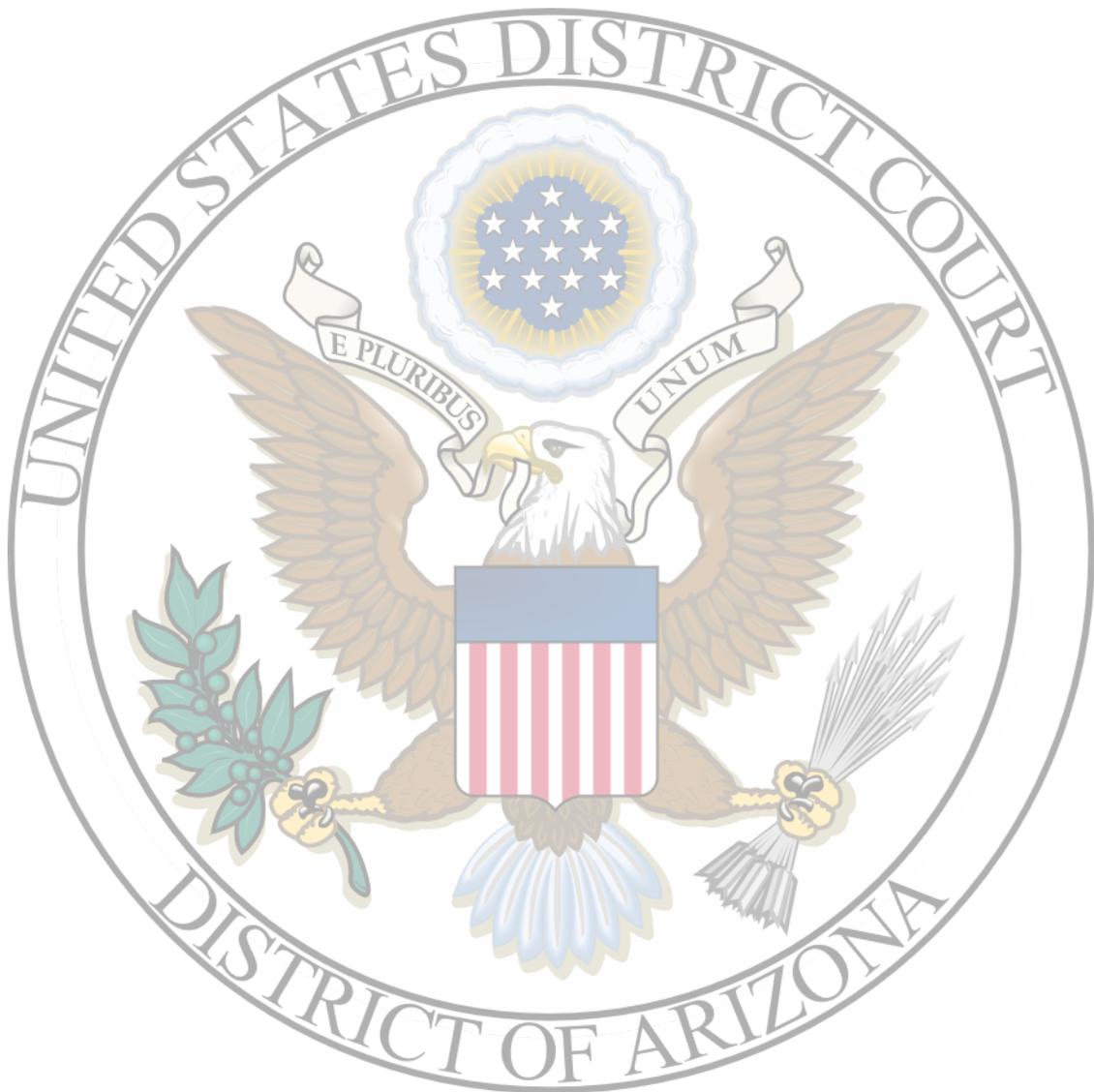
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Welcome and Opening Remarks

Sivan Korn & Joe Kroeger

Co-Chairs of the Arizona Lawyer Representatives to the Ninth Circuit



Sivan Korn is the co-chair of the Arizona Lawyer Representatives for the District of Arizona. She is a Partner in the Tucson office of Womble Bond Dickinson (formerly Lewis Roca) and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation group. She is an experienced commercial litigator practicing primarily in the areas of intellectual property and licensing. Drawing on 25 years of experience, Sivan represents and counsels clients on a full range of commercial litigation issues, including patent litigation, licensing disputes, trade secret litigation, restrictive covenants, and partnership disputes. Sivan has represented clients in federal

and state courts, including successful representation of life science companies in complex, high-stakes patent litigation. Sivan is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a member of the Institute's Restatement of Corporate Governance Consultant Group. She is admitted to the Arizona and New York Bars.



Joe Kroeger is the co-chair of the Arizona Lawyer Representatives for the District of Arizona and a partner in the Tucson office of Snell & Wilmer, LLP. Joe is a nationally recognized labor and employment attorney and partner at Snell & Wilmer, where he represents clients ranging from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies across diverse industries. Known for his proactive, business minded approach, he counsels employers on preventing workplace claims and skillfully positions complex matters for strong defense when litigation becomes necessary. Joe is ranked by Chambers USA and as Southern Arizona's Lawyer of the Year by The Best Lawyers in

America for four of the past five years.



Every Case Tells a Story: Using Narrative to Move Juries and Judges

Ann Marie Houghtailing, Story Imprinting

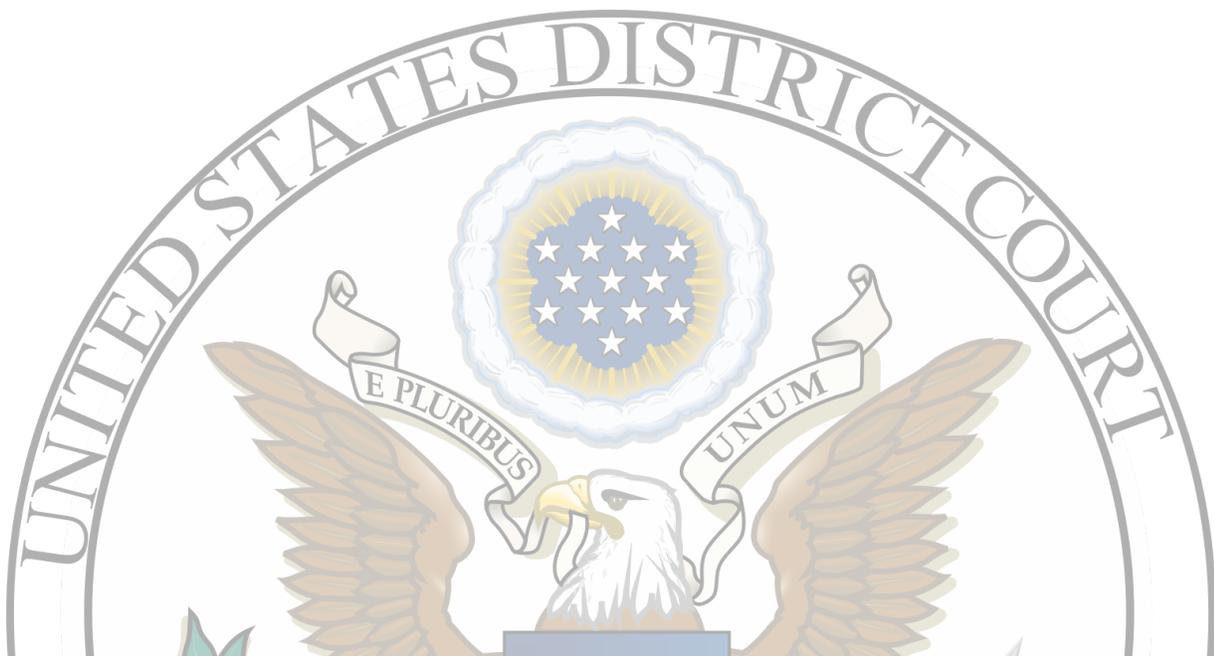


Ann Marie Houghtailing, founder of Story Imprinting, leads this engaging and highly practical session on the role of narrative in persuasion. Grounded in neuroscience and decades of real-world experience, the session explores how story shapes attention, meaning-making, memory, and judgment beyond a fact pattern alone. Participants will examine how narrative structure influences humans process facts, assign credibility, and ultimately make decisions. Rather than treating storytelling as performance or embellishment, this session positions story as a disciplined, ethical tool that works with human nature instead of against it. Whether you are litigating, advising, or shaping

strategy, to understand storytelling is to understand how humans decide—and why some arguments move while others, despite strong facts, do not.

Ann Marie Houghtailing is recognized as one of the most sought-after experts on business development and storytelling in the country. A keynote speaker and trainer, she helps leaders harness the power of narrative to influence, connect, and lead with impact. She has trained thousands of professionals across the United States and abroad, delivered a TEDx talk, and even brought storytelling behind prison walls—teaching incarcerated men how to use narrative as a tool for empowerment, learning, and connection. She has volunteered with hospice patients listening to their last stories.

Ann Marie’s work spans Fortune 500 boardrooms, Am Law 100 firms, and intimate leadership retreats. Known for blending wit, candor, and humanity, she challenges audiences to think differently about how stories shape culture, business, and human connection. In April of 2025 her collection of poetry, *Little by Little* was published by Yellow Arrow Publishing. Her writing has also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *XO Jane*, *Yahoo! Finance* and *Daily Worth*.



Current Challenge in First Amendment Litigation

Ronnie London, General Counsel Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)

Ronnie London, in conversation with Joe Kroeger (Snell & Wilmer), will explore key and current issues surrounding free speech, examining issues and challenges with which First Amendment litigators are currently wrestling, and the current state of the law through a dynamic conversation with FIRE’s General Counsel, Ronnie London, and Joe Kroeger of Snell & Wilmer. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage directly through an audience Q&A session, fostering an interactive discussion. ***This session will be followed by round-table discussions with our District Judges.***



Ronnie London is General Counsel for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. He joined FIRE in 2021 following 25 years in private practice focused on First Amendment litigation and counseling clients on federal and state regulations affecting speech. His experience includes litigating cases involving constitutional and statutory protections for online intermediaries, police action against protestors and professional photographers, licensing and permitting of filming on federal lands, regulation of “indecent” broadcasts and adult content, and restrictions on commercial speech, as well as Freedom of Information Act cases. Ronnie played a central role in his firm’s partnership with FIRE’s Stand Up for Speech Litigation Project and currently oversees FIRE’s Litigation work and serves on its Executive Team. He has also served as National Chairman and President of the First Amendment Lawyers Association and remains on FALA’s board of directors.



Authenticity and Accountability: Evidence and Ethics in a Synthetic World

As artificial intelligence revolutionizes evidence creation, analysis, and presentation, courts face the challenge of discerning what is real, reliable, and ethical. This advanced session will address two critical areas in AI and the law: evidentiary integrity and professional responsibility.

Hon. Madeleine Wanslee, Professor Nancy Rapoport and Kristen Brook will tackle the evidentiary challenges posed by AI-generated materials—such as deepfake videos, synthetic voices, AI-assisted handwriting, and algorithmically altered records. The discussion will focus on how judges can assess authenticity and admissibility under current evidentiary rules, questioning whether traditional standards need to evolve for machine-made evidence.

Next, the panel will explore the ethical implications of AI in legal practice. As generative tools increasingly shape written advocacy and client advice, lawyers encounter new responsibilities under existing ethics rules. We will examine the risks of relying on AI without sufficient human oversight and the potential negligence of not using reliable AI tools.



Judge Madeleine C. Wanslee serves on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona. She is a member of the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach Committee and is the Ninth Circuit Governor for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. She previously served as 2024 Chair and 2023 Program Chair for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conferences, Chair of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee, and President of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, which she helped to charter.



Nancy B. Rapoport is a UNLV Distinguished Professor, the Garman Turner Gordon Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an Affiliate Professor of Business Law and Ethics in the Lee Business School at UNLV. Her specialties are bankruptcy ethics, ethics in governance, law firm behavior, artificial intelligence and the law, and the depiction of lawyers in popular culture. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2017, she received the Commercial Law League of America's Lawrence P. King Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy, and in 2025, she received the

Commercial and Consumer Law Scholarship Award from the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Commercial and Consumer Law.



Kristen Brook is a former federal and state prosecutor with twenty years of courtroom experience and is now a justice-technology executive at Axon. She previously served as a Deputy County Attorney in Pima County, Arizona, and later as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Arizona, where she handled complex criminal prosecutions and trial litigation. Today, she works at the intersection of law and emerging technology, helping ensure that AI-driven justice tools are developed with constitutional safeguards, prosecutorial standards, and due-process principles at their core. She currently serves as a Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative for the District of Arizona.



LUNCH PROGRAM

State of the District

Hon. Jennifer Zipps, Chief U.S. District Judge, District of Arizona



Chief Judge Jennifer Zipps earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Arizona and a J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center. After clerking for the Honorable William Canby on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, she was an associate at Molloy, Jones and Donahue in Tucson, Arizona, focusing on business litigation and bankruptcy matters. Judge Zipps worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office for ten years, serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division, Chief of the Civil Division, and Chief Assistant. Judge Zipps was appointed as a United States Magistrate on April 4, 2005, received her commission as a U.S. District Judge on October 5, 2011, and

became Chief Judge on October 21, 2024. She sits in Tucson, Arizona.

2026 John Roll Award

Recipients: Hon. Jacqueline Rateau and Hon. Bruce Macdonald



Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Rateau was born and raised in Nogales, Arizona. She graduated from Nogales High School in 1979, earned her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University in 1982, and received her J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1986. Her early legal career included four years as a law clerk to a United States District Judge, two years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, and nine years in private practice. In 2001, she was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge, a position she has held with distinction for 25 years.

Over the course of her judicial service, Judge Rateau earned a reputation as a master of federal law and an extraordinary mentor to members of the Bar. She has devoted significant time to developing practical resources for attorneys new to federal court and has generously shared her knowledge and experience with countless practitioners, always striving to elevate the quality of advocacy in the District.

Judge Rateau's legacy is especially reflected in her leadership in specialty and diversion courts. She helped establish the District's first diversion court, ICAN, working closely with District Judge Marquez to create alternatives to incarceration for defendants struggling with mental health challenges and substance use disorders. Through her care and commitment, ICAN has helped numerous participants avoid felony convictions and rebuild their lives. In addition to ICAN, she has served as a judge in the YOUCAN youthful diversion program and the re-entry court program, AZSTAR. Recognizing the importance of continuity, Judge Rateau also recruited and encouraged the participation of fellow Magistrate Judges to ensure the continued strength and growth of these vital programs.



Bruce G. Macdonald, a Tucson native, earned his B.A. (1981) and J.D. (1985) from the University of Arizona. He practiced civil law in Tucson from 1985 to 2012 before his appointment as a United States Magistrate Judge in May 2012. As an attorney, he was AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and certified as a Legal Specialist in Personal Injury and Wrongful Death by the State Bar of Arizona.

Throughout his career, Judge Macdonald has demonstrated a deep commitment to professional leadership and service. He held numerous roles with the State Bar of Arizona, including service on the Committee on Character and Fitness (Chair, 1998–1999), the Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Executive Committee of the Trial Practice Section (Secretary, 2010; Treasurer, 2011). He also served as a Hearing Officer for the Disciplinary Commission of the Arizona Supreme Court and as a member of the Pima County Bar Association Board of Directors. An Associate Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, he has been active in several professional organizations, including the Tucson Defense Bar (President, 1995–1996), the Arizona Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Association for Justice.

Judge Macdonald has contributed extensively to legal education and mentorship. He served on the faculty and as Co-Chair of the State Bar of Arizona College of Trial Advocacy, as a Barrister in the Morris K. Udall Inn of Court, and as an adjunct instructor teaching Pretrial Litigation at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Known for his dedication to professionalism and civility, he he was involved in the establishment of the Federal Court Civics program. This initiative provides high school and college students the opportunity to visit a federal courtroom, meet a federal judge, participate in a mock jury exercise, and, most importantly, learn firsthand about civility, professionalism, and the rule of law.

As a Magistrate Judge, Judge Macdonald also helped establish the re-entry court program, AZSTAR (Arizona Supervision to Aid Re-Entry), and served on the Ninth Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, further reflecting his commitment to innovative programs that improve both the administration of justice and the broader community.

Presenters: Hon. Charles Harrington and Jessica Turk



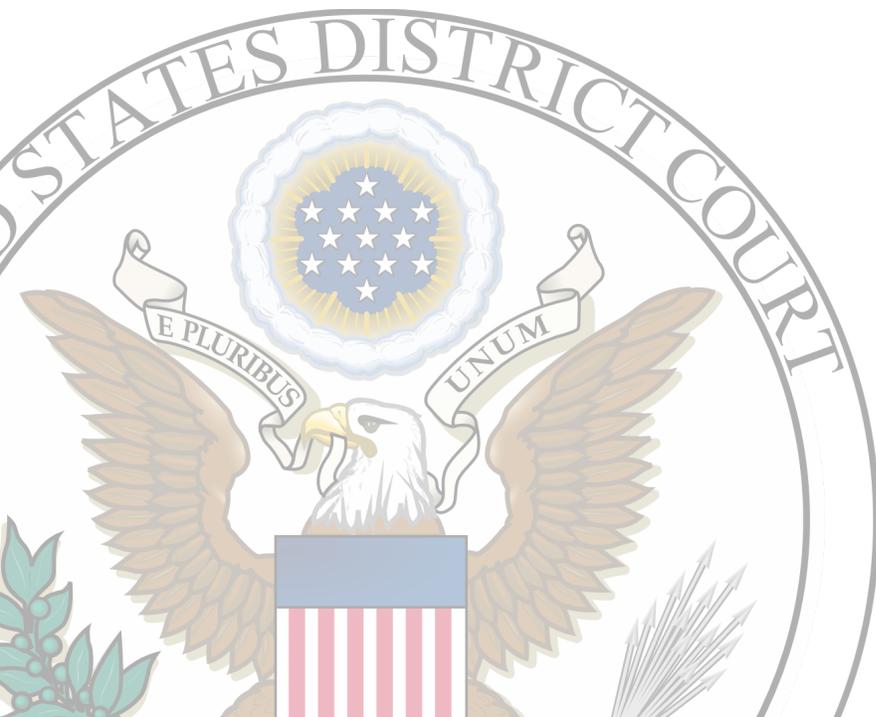
Charles “Chuck” Harrington is a Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. He earned his J.D. from the Gonzaga School of Law in 1984, after completing a B.S. at the University of Arizona (1976) and a B.A. at Gonzaga University (1974).

Prior to joining the law faculty, Professor Harrington served with distinction as a judge on the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County, where he presided over civil, probate, criminal, and juvenile matters. His legal career began with a clerkship for a U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge in Spokane, Washington, followed

by private practice in Arizona with Bilby & Shoenhair, Snell & Wilmer, and as a partner at Chandler, Tullar, Udall & Redhair.



Jessica Turk has served as CJA Resource Counsel since June of 2024. Prior to her present position, she practiced criminal indigent defense for 16 years. For many of those 16 years, she managed a solo law practice that focused solely on case appointments made through the Criminal Justice Act. Aside from CJA work, Jessica has also been employed as a public defender at the Hawaii Federal Defender Office, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Gila River Indian Community. Her commitment to indigent defense comes from her deeply held belief in the principles that serve as the foundation of the Sixth Amendment. This is Jessica’s last year as a Lawyer Representative.



Pro Bono Awards

Hon. Lynnette Kimmins, U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of Arizona



Judge Kimmins, a native of Phoenix, graduated from Arizona State University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Justice Studies. Lynnette was a Juvenile Probation Officer for Maricopa County from May of 1988 to December of 1989. She graduated from the University of Arizona, College of Law in 1992. She was a Deputy County Attorney at the Pima County Attorney's Office 6 ½ years where she prosecuted sex crimes, child abuse and child homicide cases, violent crimes, property crimes, narcotics, vehicular offenses, and misdemeanors. She became an Assistant United States Attorney in 1999 where she prosecuted immigration, narcotics, and violent crimes. While with the U.S. Attorney's

Office, she had the opportunity to serve as Chief Assistant, Criminal Chief, and Deputy Chief in the Tucson Office, as well as Interim First Assistant for the District of Arizona. She was assigned to the Civil Division from 2009 to 2013, where she represented the United States in suits brought under the Federal Torts Claims Act, heads of agencies when suit was brought against them in their federal capacity, and employees in their individual capacities in Bivens lawsuits. In 2013, she returned to the Criminal Division as Senior Litigation Counsel where she was responsible for training new attorneys and was also assigned to the Financial Crimes/Public Integrity Unit which investigates and prosecutes financial crime, public corruption and civil rights violations. Lynnette has been active in the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, Federal Bar Association, the Arizona High School Mock Trial Program, and the National Charity League, as well as volunteering with her family's church and schools. Lynnette was sworn in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge on April 5, 2016. She is active with various District Court Committees including Self-Represented Litigants and Civics Education. Lynnette's husband is a retired. They have three children and three grandchildren.



Thomas Jefferson on the Modern Judiciary

Clay Jenkinson in character

Portrayed by noted scholar and humanities presenter Clay Jenkinson, our Third President, the Honorable Thomas Jefferson, will offer a searching appraisal of the modern judiciary. In character, Jefferson will praise judicial independence as an indispensable guardian of liberty, while cautioning against judicial overreach that may displace republican self-government. He will call for fidelity to clear constitutional limits, renewed respect for local authority, and preservation of the jury trial as a vital civic check on centralized power. At the same time, he will urge a reinvigoration of public education and democratic participation, so that the law remains rooted in the virtue and vigilance of the people. Audiences can expect a thought-provoking, spirited, and historically grounded performance that brings 18th-century principles into lively conversation with the institutional realities of the 21st century.



Clay Jenkinson is a public humanities scholar, a writer, a master interviewer and moderator, documentary filmmaker, and a historical impersonator (a Chautauquan). He is the author of 13 books spanning topics from Thomas Jefferson, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Theodore Roosevelt, the literature of pandemics, and his beloved North Dakota. He is frequently featured as an expert commentator on historical documentaries, collaborating with the likes of Ken Burns and Doris Kearns Goodwin.



CRIMINAL

The Role of Emerging Technology in Eyewitness Identification of Criminal Suspects

University of Arizona Professor Bryan Schwartz and University of Birmingham (UK) Professor Heather Flowe

Professors Schwartz and Flowe will present on the impact of emerging technology on eyewitness identification. They will discuss the use of interactive lineups—a lineup consisting of 3D movable faces—which, in initial studies, is the first and only identification method to provide more accurate results than a traditional photo lineup. They will also focus on recent studies of other identification variables, which have traditionally impacted the reliability of eyewitness identifications. This includes initial testing involving AI and what AI models may be capable of to improve the eyewitness identification process. Finally, the discussion will consider whether the current doctrinal framework for determining reliability of eyewitness identifications is appropriately equipped to evaluate identifications based on AI and new technology—including due process and Sixth Amendment concerns. This session will complement the general AI discussion, providing criminal practitioners with a focused examination of specific criminal law and procedure issues.



Professor Schwartz teaches Criminal Procedure and Legal Writing at the University of Arizona - James E. Rogers College of Law. Before joining the University of Arizona in 2023, Professor Schwartz was a Visiting Associate Professor at George Washington University Law School for two years. He was also an adjunct professor at UNLV – William S. Boyd School of Law. Before transitioning to academia, he was a Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Clark County District Attorney’s Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, primarily serving on the Domestic Violence Unit and the Special Victim’s Unit. He served in this role for eight years, conducting over 25 jury trials and arguing before the Nevada Supreme Court. Additionally, he received the Nevada Business Silver State Top Attorney Award during his final four years of practice. After law school, Professor Schwartz clerked for now-retired Chief Justice Mark Gibbons on the Nevada Supreme Court. He relies on his practice experience to inform his scholarship, which focuses on issues in criminal procedure and evidence. His forthcoming article—Modernizing Eyewitness Identification—argues the need to rethink eyewitness identification doctrine in the face of new and emerging technology.



Heather Flowe, PhD (University of California, San Diego), is full Professor of Psychology and Deputy Head of College (Life and Environmental Sciences) at the University of Birmingham, UK, and Courtesy Professor at Florida International University. Her research on eyewitness identification has directly shaped legal practice: her work has been cited by the US Supreme Court and informed Crown Prosecution Service guidance on identification evidence in England and Wales, as well as New York State guidelines for administering lineups and photospreads. She has served as faculty at the National District Attorney's College, providing continuing education on eyewitness identification, and

has trained attorneys on examining expert witnesses in identification cases. With over \$11M in competitive research funding, she has conducted extensive studies on lineup procedures and identification accuracy, including pioneering work on interactive lineups, publishing in prestigious outlets such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Heather serves on the Editorial Board of Psychology, Public Policy and Law and engages widely with practitioners and the public, presenting at symposia for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, appearing in television documentaries, and contributing to popular science and police journals, such as Scientific American.



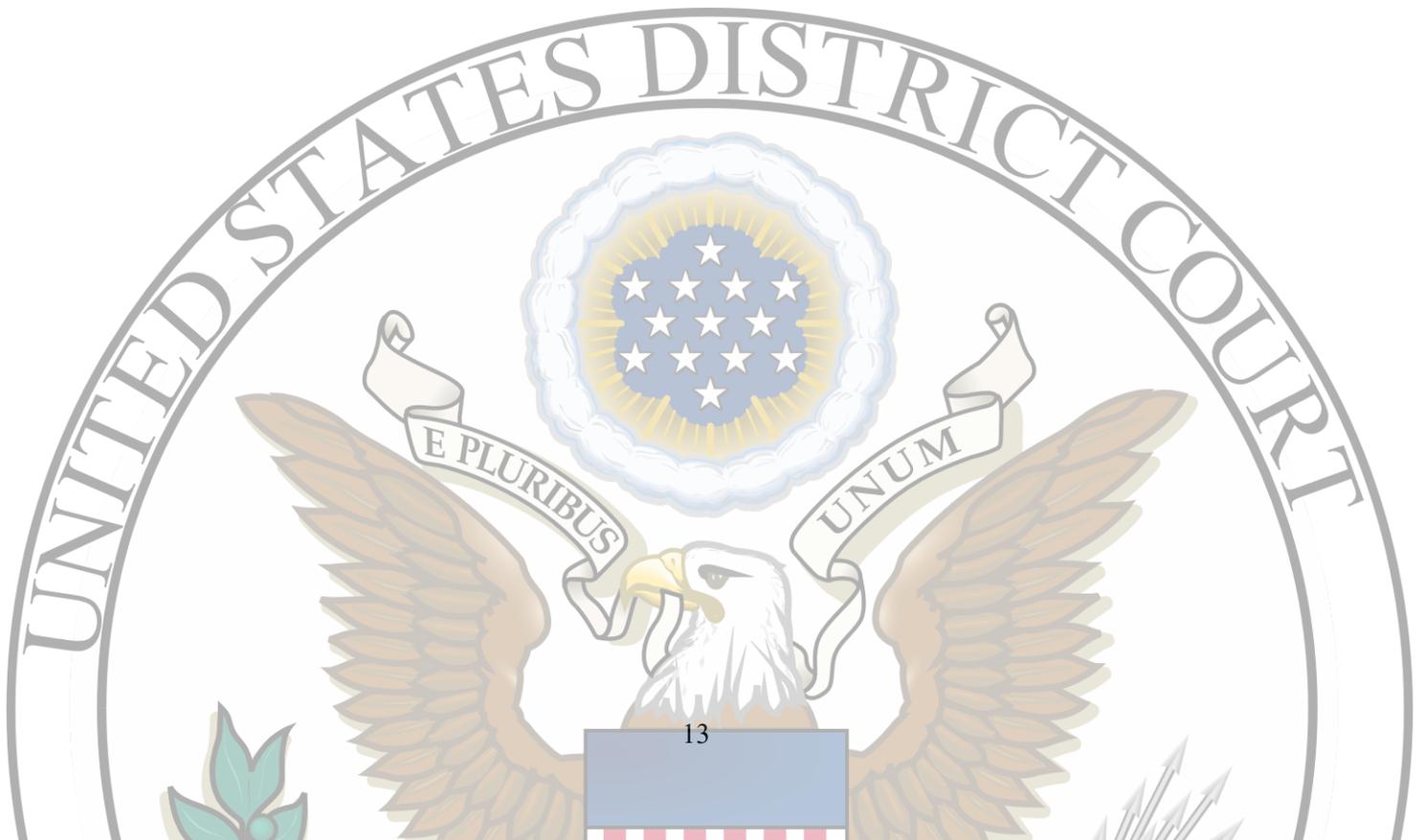
CIVIL

Computer Forensic Challenges in Civil Litigation

Explore how forensic evidence can make—or break—a civil case. Using a mock trade secret dispute, this session introduces key forensic concepts such as tracking document access, transmission, revision, and deletion. Attendees will learn to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of digital evidence from both sides and gain practical insight into common disputes over scope, timing, privilege, work product, neutral experts, discovery burdens, and spoliation. Moderated by John Gray, hosting nationally recognized computer forensics expert Andrew Crain.



Andrew Crain is a Managing Director at BRG. Mr. Crain provides expert witness and strategic consulting services to law firms and corporate clients in the areas of computer forensics, investigations, electronic discovery, and litigation support. Licensed in California as both an attorney and private investigator, Mr. Crain has assisted clients with a wide variety of consulting engagements. Mr. Crain also possesses deep experience with personnel management and profitably building and growing private computer forensics consulting practices. He has provided expert testimony in declarations, depositions, and at trial. He has also served numerous times as a neutral computer forensics examiner, either by court appointment or stipulation. He frequently lectures at CLE seminars, in university courses, and in law firm presentations on the topics of investigations, computer forensics, and electronic discovery



BANKRUPTCY

Bankruptcy at a Crossroads: Reforming for the 21st Century Debtor

Is the current bankruptcy system equipped for modern debtors? This session examines emerging challenges including cryptocurrency assets, gig economy workers, non-traditional employment, expanding student loan debt, and the rise of “zombie debt.”

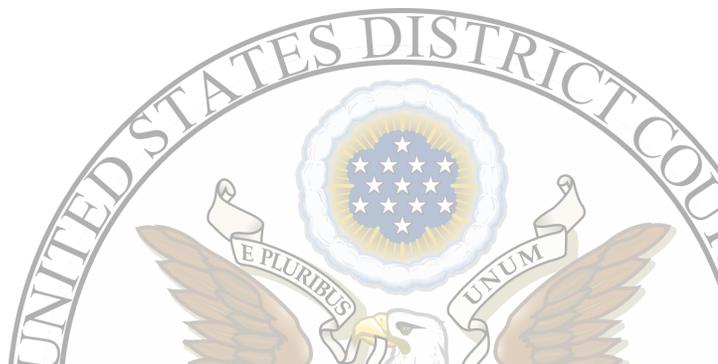


Lisa C. Thompson is licensed to practice law in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Washington, D.C. She has practiced consumer bankruptcy law as both Debtor’s and Creditor’s counsel for 30 years. Currently, she is the Staff Attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Dianne C. Kerns. In addition, Lisa is the author of three books published annually by Thomson Reuters: Arizona Legal Forms – Debtor-Creditor; Arizona Legal Forms – Limited Liability Companies and Partnerships; and the Arizona Business Law Deskbook.



Karen Bentley is a partner at Guidant Law whose practice centers on consumer bankruptcy, with a particular emphasis on the discharge of student loan debt. She represents individuals in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases and is nationally recognized for her work in student loan adversary proceedings arising out of bankruptcy. Karen has practiced in both private firms throughout Arizona and at the Arizona Office of the Attorney General, giving her a broad litigation and regulatory background. She has successfully negotiated and litigated student loan discharges and debt resolutions totaling more than \$1 million and routinely guides clients through complex adversary proceedings from initial

complaint through trial. As a former teacher and school principal, Karen brings a practical and informed perspective to student loan litigation. She is frequently consulted on the evolving standards governing student loan dischargeability and is known for identifying and advancing viable discharge strategies where others assume none exist. Her practice focuses on delivering realistic, legally sound solutions for debtors navigating some of the most difficult financial circumstances of their lives.





Warren Stapleton has practiced in the area of corporate restructuring and insolvency, creditor’s rights, and creditor-debtor matters for almost three decades. He has represented manufacturers, real estate developers, marketing enterprises, governmental agencies, tort claimants, and marijuana-related businesses in receivership, state court civil, and bankruptcy contexts. He is handsome (in certain lighting), loquacious (but does occasionally pause for a breath), vain (but not in a prickly fashion), and is rumored to have a better than average sense of humor. Children and dogs like him.



Bryce Suzuki focuses his practice in bankruptcy, restructuring, and insolvency. He provides strategic business planning legal advice and dispute resolution representation to a diverse range of lenders, companies, and business owners. Bryce also advises businesses in the field of cryptocurrency, blockchain, and related technology. In his restructuring practice, Bryce represents creditors, debtors, landlords, asset purchasers, and equity security holders in all aspects of distressed and insolvency situations. He represents clients with respect to loan enforcement and related litigation, receiverships, bankruptcy, distressed asset sales,

workouts, wind downs and liquidation, assignments for the benefit of creditors, and out-of-court restructurings. He regularly first-chairs trials in bankruptcy courts and has significant experience leading appeals involving bankruptcy and insolvency issues. His practice has involved diverse industry sectors, including cryptocurrency, retail, hospitality, restaurant, medical, oil and gas, commercial real estate, mining, industrial, aviation, professional sports, and wholesale supply. Bryce is involved in numerous professional and community organizations, for which he has served in board and senior leadership positions. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of TMA Global, the turnaround industry’s preeminent professional organization. He also served for several years on the board of the Arizona Equal Access to Justice Foundation and has been committed to pro bono work throughout his career. In 2018, he received a formal commendation from Arizona Governor Doug Ducey for leadership in the legal profession and community. Bryce is also an adjunct professor at the Arizona State University, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, where he teaches a course on cryptocurrency and blockchain law and policy. He is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy and blockchain topics.

