



Presents A Day of Complimentary Virtual Education

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Via Zoom



ABOTA Masters In Trial Program: Honing Your Skills with Local ABOTA Trial Attorneys & Judges

Program Chair: Letty Litchfield, Esq., Law Offices of Letty Litchfield

Program Moderator: John J. Nygard, CLVS, Vice President, Carol Nygard & Associates, Inc.

8:00 am	Zoom Webinar Platform Open	11:50 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch Break
8:25 am – 8:30 am	Welcome by Chapter President, Steve Gurnee	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Real Evidence for the Trial Lawyer <i>Daniel V. Kohls, Esq., Hansen, Kohls, Sommer & Jacob, LLP</i> Mr. Kohls will explore the practical mechanics of getting evidence admitted during a trial. This presentation will also address evidentiary issues related to expert witnesses and the method of keeping the other side's evidence out (objecting).
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Deposition Strategies: How to Be Effective & Protect the Record <i>Dominique Pollara, Esq., Pollara Law Group</i> <i>Carol S. Nygard, CSR, President, Carol Nygard & Associates, Inc.</i> Ms. Pollara and Ms. Nygard will discuss, from the perspective of counsel and court reporter, practical deposition techniques to effectively question witnesses while preserving and protecting the record. This presentation will also explore how protecting the record and effective and ineffective questioning at deposition can make or break a case at trial.	1:30 pm – 1:40 pm	Break
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Break	1:40 pm – 2:40 pm	Legal Ethics & Substance Abuse From a Judge's Perspective <i>Hon. David Abbott, Sacramento Superior Court (Ret.)</i> Retired Judge Dave Abbott and David Mann of The Other Bar, will discuss the ethical impact and ramifications of substance abuse.
9:40 am – 10:40 am	Motions for Summary Judgment/Summary Adjudication: From a Law & Motion Judge's Perspective <i>Hon. David I. Brown, Sacramento Superior Court</i> Judge David Brown will present a practical course on the various problems and procedures encountered in formatting and presenting summary judgment and summary adjudication motions, with an eye toward acquainting the practitioner with the service requirements, pitfalls in formatting, separate statements and overall with an aim to ensuring your motion will be procedurally proper and considered by the court. It is not "all inclusive" however, as that would take another hour or so (preparing declarations, and the like).	2:40 pm – 2:50 pm	Break
10:40 am – 10:50 am	Break	2:50 pm – 3:50 pm	Liens: Do Not Give Your Client's Money Away <i>Daniel Wilcoxon, Esq., Wilcoxon Callahan, LLP</i> Dan Wilcoxon will be discussing the types of liens that are seen in personal injury and medical malpractice cases claimed by ERISA Plans, Medi-Cal, Medicare, health insurance carriers, hospitals, and other potential lien claimants. He will further provide information on when and how to identify what liens exist. He will further discuss how to avoid payment of said liens and how to decide whether you should take a case from a plaintiff's perspective, and whether or not the defense has a right to purchase liens.
10:50 am – 11:50 am	Race & Implicit Bias in the Practice of Law: What Do Our Colleagues Experience & What Can We do to Address It? <i>Jesse Rivera, Esq., Rivera Hewitt Paul LLP</i> <i>Linda J. L. Sharpe, Attorney</i> Mr. Rivera and Ms. Sharpe will discuss race and implicit bias in the practice of law, sharing some of their experiences and offering suggestions on how to reduce their impact.	3:50 pm – 4:00 pm	Closing Remarks by Chapter President, Steve Gurnee



Please Register by Clicking Here

Speaker Bios on the following page.



MCLE Credit Information

This Masters in Trial program is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education participatory credit by the State Bar of California. The total available credit is 6.0 hours, including 1-hour specialty credit of Recognition and Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession and Society, and 1-hour specialty credit of Substance Abuse, Mental or Physical Issues that Impair Professional Competence.

The MCLE Certificate of Attendance will be e-mailed to all participants whose attendance has been verified following the program.



HON. DAVID W. ABBOTT (Ret.)

David Abbott was appointed to the Superior Court of Sacramento in 2001. As a trial judge, he presided over civil and criminal jury trials, felony pre-trial matters, law and motion and civil case management calendars, and settlement of complex civil cases. He presided over more than 150 civil jury trials to verdict and served as Assistant Presiding Judge of Sacramento County in 2008-2009 and 2018-2019. Judge Abbott currently serves as the Membership Chair for the Sacramento Valley Chapter of ABOTA.



HON. DAVID I. BROWN

David I. Brown is currently a judge of the Sacramento Superior Court, having been appointed in 2008. For the past 10 years Judge Brown sits in Dept. 53, one of two Law and Motion Departments of the Court. He chaired the Education Committee of the Sacramento Superior Court from 2013 through 2017, and sits on numerous committees. He is an active member of ABOTA and presently sits on the Executive Committee of the Sacramento Valley Chapter as a National Board Representative, and served as President in 2018.



DANIEL V. KOHLS

Daniel V. Kohls is the Managing Partner of Hansen, Kohls, Sommer & Jacob, LLP. His practice focuses on the defense of professionals, insurance bad faith, and business litigation. He has also tried many other types of cases to verdict, including personal injury, breach of contract and Section 1983 civil rights matters. Mr. Kohls graduated from U.C. Berkeley prior to attending McGeorge School of Law. He has been trying cases for 27 years and has had great success representing his clients' interests both at the trial level and on appeal. Daniel currently serves as the Secretary for the Sacramento Valley Chapter of ABOTA.



DAVID MANN

David Mann serves as the Northern California Consultant to The Other Bar, a statewide organization of recovering attorneys, judges, and law students. In this capacity, he spends his time providing outreach and education to the legal community, and assisting attorneys as they struggle with substance abuse and related challenges that threaten their ability and/or eligibility to practice law.



CAROL S. NYGARD

Carol Nygard is President of Carol Nygard & Associates, Inc., and has been a practicing reporter for the past 44 years. She is a Past President of the California Court Reporters Association. She has reported everything from death penalty cases to Silicon Valley patent litigation. She has reported depositions in a number of different states and countries such as Sweden and post-revolution Egypt. Her firm has been a trailblazer in virtual deposition utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.



DOMINIQUE A. POLLARA

Dominique received her JD from Vermont Law School in 1984. She is a member of ABOTA and was the Sacramento Valley Chapter President in 2014. She also is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers and is Board Certified in medical malpractice by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. Her practice focuses on medical malpractice defense and medical professional advocacy.



JESSE M. RIVERA

Jesse earned his J.D. from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1978. He started his career at the Sacramento County Public Defender's Office where for a decade he tried hundreds of cases in all areas of criminal law including serious felonies and homicides. In 1987, Jesse joined the law firm of Porter, Scott, Weiberg & Delehant where he spent three years honing his trial skills in the arena of civil litigation.

Since entering private practice, in addition to having tried numerous automobile claims in state court, Jesse has successfully defended to verdict over ten civil rights jury trials in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California which requires a unanimous verdict. He has handled and tried cases before the California State Bar Trial Court, regarding attorney malfeasance, and he has also successfully defended several construction defect claims to verdict in Sacramento, Placer, and Stanislaus Counties, among others. Jesse served as President of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of ABOTA in 2016, and is currently an ABOTA Lifetime Fellow and a past National Board Representative.



LINDA J. L. SHARPE

Linda J. L. Sharpe is a 1980 graduate of UCLA School of Law and has been a licensed California attorney since 1980, practicing in the area of civil litigation. She began her career as an associate at a large firm in Los Angeles, where she practiced for five years before moving to Sacramento. Linda was a partner and owner of a civil litigation firm for over 20 years. Most recently, she was a member of the staff legal team of a major insurance company for 11 years before retiring as Senior Trial Counsel in 2019. Linda remains engaged in the Sacramento legal community.

Linda was elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2004 and received the ABOTA Sacramento Valley Chapter's 2012 Civility Award for exemplary professionalism and conduct in the practice of civil law.



DANIEL E. WILCOXEN

Daniel E. Wilcoxon received his JD, cum laude, from McGeorge School of Law in 1972 and was sworn in to the California State Bar. He spent the next 7 years as a defense attorney before opening his own office in 1979 primarily representing plaintiffs. He is the founding and senior partner of Wilcoxon Callahan, LLP, handling personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice, business, discrimination and wrongful termination employment cases, obtaining over 70 million dollar and multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements.

Well versed in lien law, he has had much success in getting liens waived and reduced. He spends many hours teaching attorneys how to deal with medical insurance providers, Medi-Cal, Medicare and ERISA liens. He has spoken at numerous seminars for CAOC, and Trial Lawyer Associations. He successfully handled an ERISA lien case before the U.S. Supreme Court, 3 lien cases before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal, and 3 lien cases before the Third District Court of Appeal. Daniel served as the President of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of ABOTA in 2008, and he currently serves as a National Board Representative.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

OFFICES OF
NOAH S. A. SCHWARTZ
AT RINGLER
1-800-322-7585 Settlement Consulting

CAROL NYGARD
& ASSOCIATES
DEPOSITION REPORTERS

MIRK
MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

M.O.A. DEPOSITION REPORTERS

JUDICATE WEST
Alternative Dispute Resolution

Results Beyond DisputeSM