

ABA Section of Litigation

2018 PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS SUMMIT

*Networking and Advancement for
Racially and Ethnically Diverse Litigators*

November 14-16, 2018 | JW Marriott Houston Galleria | Houston, TX

ambar.org/pss2018



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NAMWOLF



#LitigationDiversity



PROGRAMS

Thursday, November 15, 2018 (Continued)

Breakout:

Keys to Taking and Defending Depositions

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

CLE

A panel of skilled litigators will discuss and offer tips and strategies for effectively preparing for, taking, and defending depositions for discovery purposes, use in motion practice, and at trial. The discussion will include a primer on applicable rules, pursuit of critical objectives, obtaining key admissions, witness preparation, managing exhibits, and other fundamentals for effective preparation and execution.

Moderator: **Rachel M. Smith**, Baker Hostetler LLP, Houston, TX

Panelists: **Micah Kessler**, Nistico Crouch & Kessler PC, Houston, TX; **Jamila S. Mensah**, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, Houston, TX; **Michelle Pector**, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, Houston, TX

Breakout:

Project “Do Something”: Can Jury Instructions Reduce Implicit Bias in Juror Decision-Making?

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Judge Parker discusses this first-of-its kind study occurring in the Dallas County District Courts to identify if implicit bias is impacting jury deliberations. Additionally, the discussion will focus on the impact, if any, of jury instructions regarding implicit biases in the deliberation room.

Speaker: **Hon. Tonya Parker**, 116th Civil District Court, Dallas, TX

CLE (Elimination of Bias)

Breakout:

Master Class: Working with Witnesses

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

CLE

In these engaging TED-style talks, three outstanding leaders in trial advocacy will offer inspirational lessons on how to produce spectacular testimony. Kalpana Srinivasan will show how to craft an extraordinary direct examination, focusing particularly on developing the witness's story, neutralizing adverse admissions, dealing with difficult documents, and structuring the order of proof for maximum effect. Lawyer-author Ken Berman (*Reinventing Witness Preparation*) will discuss statements from famous politicians and distill from those statements critical lessons about how best to prepare witnesses for testifying. And Victor Vital will show the differences between a good cross-examination and a great one and will teach how to achieve the latter. This master class is a must attend for lawyers who are serious about consistently performing at the top of their game.

Speakers: **Kenneth Berman**, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, Boston, MA;

Kalpana Srinivasan, Susman Godfrey LLP, Los Angeles, CA; **Victor Vital**, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Dallas, TX

Breakout:

Talk is Cheap: Hiring and Retaining Diverse Inside and Outside Counsel

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

CLE (Elimination of Bias)

While there is a lot of talk concerning the diversity of outside (and inside) counsel, there remains much progress to be made. This roundtable will discuss effective strategies for hiring diverse outside counsel, demanding diversity from existing suppliers, and hiring and retaining diverse inside counsel. The panel will also discuss how the hiring and retention of diverse counsel positively impacts the legal advice that in-house counsel deliver to their clients, and the importance of diverse representation in litigation matters.

Moderator: **Nikki Odum**, 3M, St. Paul, MN

Panelists: **Tracy Dalton**, Counsel on Call, Dallas, TX; **Alan Dorantes**, AT&T, Dallas, TX; **Sylvia James**, Winston & Strawn LLP, Washington, D.C.