



Friday, December 6, 2024

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Approved for 7.0 CLE HRS

DRAFT AGENDA

8:30 **Registration and Coffee**

8:55 – 9:00 **Introduction & Opening Remarks**

Jim Cales, VADA Immediate Past President, *Furniss Davis Rashkind & Saunders*
Nia White, VADA Young Lawyers Division Chair, *Genty Locke*

9:00 – 10:15 **Your Role as Second Chair**

Stanley P. Wellman, VADA Past President, *Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman*

Our speaker will explain your role as second chair from “working up” and evaluating cases, preparing and responding to written discovery, preparing for, taking and defending depositions, trial preparation, and trying the case itself. Our speaker will explore the discovery process, trial performance and court appearances in general, particularly in the post-COVID environment. They will close with a look at organization, deadline awareness, rules for procedure and evidence, communications and the trial binder.

10:15 - 11:30 **Your First Jury Trial**

Carlyle (Randy) Wimbish III, VADA Past President, *Wimbish Gentile McCray & Roeber*

Litigating your first jury trial can be a daunting experience for a young attorney, but our speaker will walk them through discovery, trial preparation, research, and deadlines that can seem overwhelming. They will demonstrate organization and preparation before you enter the courtroom and during trial and finish with practical tips so that their first jury trial can be a rewarding and exciting experience.

11:30 – 11:45 **Break**

11:45 - 12:45 **Tips for Practice in Federal Court**

Meghan Gosline, *Hancock Daniel*
Jessica Swauger, *Hancock Daniel*

Our speakers will walk participants through the importance of understanding the rules of Federal Court, including both judge-specific rules and local rules. They will stress the importance of trial prep and protocol, discovery, motions, and finish with an overview of the Code of Pretrial and Trial Conduct including obligations to colleagues, the court, and the system of justice, motions and pretrial procedure, discovery and relationships with witnesses and litigants and finally, trial.

12:45 - 1:15

Lunch

1:15 – 2:15

How to Try a Case in General District Court

Katie M. DeCoster, *Sands Anderson*

This session will explain the role of general district courts, the subject matter of cases heard there, the rules and principles in these courts, and the actions taken there from initial and subsequent pleadings, counter-claims, cross claims, return dates, and discovery through trial, appeals, new trials, the setting aside of default judgments. It will finish with an explanation of the wide range of standard forms used in the general district courts.

2:15 – 3:00

What the Insurance Adjustor Needs from You: Teamwork in Insurance Claims

Melissa H. Katz, VADA Past President, *McGavin Boyce Bardot Thorsen & Katz*

The speaker will explain the tripartite relationship between the insurer, the insured and defense counsel. They will explain when working with a claims adjuster how to navigate this relationship and give recommendations when working with a claims adjuster -- what do adjusters do, what do they need from attorneys, and why?

3:00 – 3:15

Break

3:15 – 3:45

Spoliation

Audra Dickens, VADA Board of Directors, *The Progressive Group*

Spoliation of evidence should always be at the back of a lawyer's mind from the moment a claim is reported. This session will discuss the practical impacts of the legislature's decision to overturn *Emerald Point, LLC v. Hawkins* and allow a judge to give a jury instruction regarding the spoliation of evidence. This session will discuss how to present your case to avoid an adverse instruction and how to defend against a proposed instruction at trial.

3:45 – 5:00

Judicial Advice for New Lawyers Panel Discussion

Hon. Alfred Bates, *Suffolk Circuit Court*

Hon. Elizabeth W. Hanes, *U.S. District Court, Eastern Division of Virginia*

Hon. Matt Hoffman, *Newport News Circuit Court*

Hon. Elliot Moody, *Portsmouth General District Court*

Moderator: Jim Cales, VADA Immediate Past President, *Furniss Davis Rashkind & Saunders*

The judges will explain pre-trial matters such as scheduling orders, pre-trial motions, discovery issues and pre-trial conference and settlement conferences. Next, they will discuss brief writing, including filing deadlines and suggestions for formatting. Then, they will discuss parts of trial including voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross, motions to strike, jury instructions and closing. Finally, they will explore post-trial motions, miscellaneous trial issues and offer specific tips for young lawyers.

5:00

Optional Virginia Museum of History and Culture First Fridays Event

Enjoy free admission to the galleries, specials in the Café, access to food trucks, and live music. Each participant will receive two drink tickets.