ABOTA TRIAL PRACTICE LECTURE
SERIES – Spring 2013
Mondays 8-9:50 a.m. – 2 credit hours –
January 14 to April 22
Classroom #339, University of Arkansas
School of Law

Course Textbooks:

James W. McElhaney, McElhaney’s Trial Notebook
R. Lawrence Dessem, Pretrial Litigation in a Nutshell

Readings for first two classes:

- Overview, History of the Seventh Amendment (David Matthews -
  Series #1 - January 14)
  Dessem,
  Chapter 1, An Overview of Pretrial Litigation

  McElhaney
  Chapter 1, The Qualities of Winners

- Evaluation of a Case (Cathleen Compton -- Series #2 – January 28)
  Dessem,
  Chapter 3: Pretrial Planning and Investigation
  Chapter 14.1.A Evaluating a Case for Settlement

In WESTLAWNext, Lexis or other source, develop a working knowledge of these materials:

  Eighth Circuit Civil Jury Instructions
  Arkansas Model Civil Jury Instructions

Semester syllabus outline and speaker schedule:
This course features a slate of seasoned trial attorneys and judges, all members of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). ABOTA’s primary objective is to educate the American public about the history and value of the right to trial by jury. In this course, these experienced practitioners will use lectures and trial practice materials to help develop our next generation of trial attorneys and judges.

Created by the Arkansas Chapter of ABOTA and scheduled first thing Monday mornings to accommodate the trial dockets of its featured speakers, the series will cover a series of topics relevant to both pre-trial and trial practice, including such topics as:

- Overview, History of the Seventh Amendment (David Matthews - Series #1 - January 14)
- Evaluation of a Case (Cathleen Compton -- Series #2 -- January 28)
- Preparation of Witnesses (Don Bacon -- Series #3 -- February 4)
- Pretrial Motions, Conferences; Scheduling Orders (David Fuqua - #4 -- February 11)
- Civility in the Court; Working with Judges (Richard Watts -- Series #5 -- February 18)
- Voir Dire (Bill Edwards -- Series #6 -- February 25)
- Opening Statement (Gordon Rather -- Series #7 -- March 4)
- Direct-Examination of Witnesses (Paul McNeill -- Series #8 -- March 11)
- Cross-Examination (John Everett -- Series #9 -- March 25)
- Making and Defending Objections (Lyn Pruitt -- Series #10 -- April 1)
- Presentation and Cross-Examination of Experts (Karen Hughes -- Series #11 -- April 8)
- Preparation, Presentation and Argumentation of Jury Instructions (Michelle Cauley -- Series #12 -- April 15)
- Closing Arguments (Randy Jackson -- Series #13 -- April 22)

Professor Kathryn Sampson will coordinate these lectures and also administer a final exam (objective and short answer format), scheduled for Friday, May 11, at 8:30 a.m.
The textbooks for this course are: James W. McElhaney, McElhaney’s Trial Notebook, and R. Lawrence Dessem, Pretrial Litigation in a Nutshell

ABOTA TRIAL PRACTICE LECTURE SERIES
Spring 2013 ABOTA Fellows

Donald H. Bacon (Professional Liability, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury)
Friday, Eldredge & Clark; Little Rock, Arkansas

Michelle H. Cauley (Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation; Information Management & Security; Product Liability/Drug & Medical Device Defense; Professional Liability Defense)
Mitchell, Williams; Little Rock, Arkansas

Cathleen V. Compton (Consumer Law)
Office of the Attorney General; Little Rock, Arkansas

Richard Donovan (Litigation, Regulatory/Administrative Law, Domestic Relations, Appellate Advocacy, Insurance Defense)
Rose Law Firm, PA; Little Rock, Arkansas
William H. “Bill” Edwards, Jr. (Professional liability defense; personal injury defense; commercial litigation; products liability defense; insurance defense of first and third party claims)
Barber Law Firm, LLP; Little Rock, Arkansas

John Everett (General Litigation, Criminal Defense, Family Law)
Everett, Wales & Comstock; Fayetteville, Arkansas

David M. Fuqua (Civil Rights)
Fuqua Campbell, P.A.; Little Rock, Arkansas

Walker Dale Garrett (Medical Malpractice and Personal Injury Defense)
Bassett Law Firm, LLP; Fayetteville, Arkansas

Karen J. Hughes (Personal Injury Litigation, First and Third Party Defense; Arson Investigation & Defense, Insurance & Bad Faith Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation)
Watts, Donovan & Tilley, P.A.; Little Rock, Arkansas

Randolph C. Jackson (Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Personal Injury, Products Liability, Construction, Premises Liability, Intentional Torts)
Jones, Jackson & Moll, PLC; Fort Smith, Arkansas

**Joel Johnson** (Commercial Liability Defense, Products Liability, Construction Law and Litigation, Domestic Relations, Insurance Defense, Railroad Defense, Business Litigation, Oil and Gas, Appellate Practice)
Hayes, Alford & Johnson PLLC; Fort Smith, Arkansas

**Hon. David Laser** (Circuit Court Judge)
Division 9; Second Judicial Circuit; Jonesboro, Arkansas

**David R. Matthews** (Personal Injury Litigation; Insurance Defense; Utility Regulation; Civil Litigation; Family Law)
Matthews, Campbell, Rhoads, McClure & Thompson, P.A; Rogers, Arkansas

**Paul D. McNeill** (Medical Malpractice, Products Liability, Litigation/Plaintiff and Defense)
Womack, Phelps & McNeill; Jonesboro, Arkansas

**Curtis L. Nebben** (General Tort Litigation, including personal injury, workers’ compensation, and commercial litigation)
Bassett Law Firm LLP; Fayetteville, Arkansas
Lyn P. Pruitt; Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation; Nursing Home Litigation Defense; Product Liability/Drug & Medical Device Defense) Mitchell, Williams; Little Rock, Arkansas

Gordon S. Rather, Jr. (Class Action and Multidistrict Litigation; Healthcare; Commercial Litigation; Products Liability; Environmental Issues and Toxic Torts) Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP; Little Rock, Arkansas

Richard N. Watts (Insurance and Bad Faith Litigation; Products Liability; Commercial Litigation; Construction Litigation; Asbestos; Aviation Law; Products Liability) Watts, Donovan & Tilley, P.A.; Little Rock, Arkansas

G. Alan Wooten (Professional Liability, Employment Discrimination, Commercial Disputes, First Amendment Case and Publicly Traded Companies) Conner & Winters; Fayetteville, Arkansas