

State Bar of Michigan · Appellate Practice Section
Writing Workshop, Annual Business Meeting, and Program
October 25, 2019 · Michigan Hall of Justice, Lansing

- Registration Options**
- Full-Day Workshop (w/Reception) – \$35 APS Members; \$50 Nonmembers
 - Afternoon Session Only (w/Reception) – \$35 APS Members; \$50 Nonmembers
 - APS Annual Business Meeting – Free

Morning Workshop

Pre-Registration

Submission of Writing Sample

Workshop attendees will be given a ~20-page lower court record from which to write an introduction to the statement of facts and outline of the brief. Criminal and civil mock cases will be available. Due one week prior to workshop.

8:30 – 9:00

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00

Welcoming Remarks and Plenary: Using Facts to Tell a Story, Develop a Theory, and Introduce Legal Issues (Brad Hall)

Attendees will learn effective techniques for theme development and persuasive storytelling to create a compelling view of the case on appeal.

10:00 – 11:00

Small Group Exercise: Factbusting the Record and Developing a Theory

Attendees will break into facilitated small groups (~6 people) to discuss ways to weave the good and bad facts into a persuasive story. Attendees will share their writing samples with other group members and explain goals and techniques.

11:00 – 12:00

Plenary: The Value of Proofreading and Editing (Marilena David-Martin)

Attendees will learn how to improve the clarity, readability, and credibility of briefs through proofreading and editing.

12:00 – 1:00/2:00

Small Group Working Lunch: Weaving Theory into the Statement of Facts

Attendees will return to small groups. Based on lessons learned and guided by facilitators and group, attendees will improve writing samples. (Attendees may continue group exercise through 2:00 in lieu of attending APS Meeting.)

APS Meeting

1:00 – 2:00

Appellate Practice Section Annual Business Meeting

Section members will elect Council officers and members for 2020 Term.

Afternoon Program

2:00 – 2:15

Remarks by Chief Justice Bridget McCormack

2:15 – 3:15

Plenary: From Persuasive Statement of Facts to Winning Brief (John Bursch)

Attendees will learn how to organize an appellate brief around a coherent and persuasive theme, from the table of contents through conclusion.

3:15 – 5:00

Panel on Stories and Themes in Appellate Writing (Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Clement, Michigan Court of Appeals Judges Elizabeth Gleicher and Brock Swartzle, and Kent County Business Court Judge Christopher Yates)

A panel of judges will provide perspectives from the bench on the effective use of storytelling techniques in appellate writing.

Reception

5:00 – 7:00

APS Reception in Hall of Justice Rotunda

Networking and membership reception with appetizers, beer, and wine.

Registration Opens Sept. 2019 · Sponsorship Opportunities Available

For more information, contact Brad Hall, bhall@sado.org or 517.334.1206