

How Judges Think:

Rule of Law, or Rule of Man?

Friday, August 8
8:30 am – 10:00 am
Hilton New York Hotel
Sutton South
2nd Floor

Sponsored By
Judicial Division National Conference of
Federal Trial Judges

Co-Sponsors

Section of Litigation • Section of Business Law • Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section • Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice • Section of Antitrust Law • Commission on Women in the Profession • Criminal Justice Section • Section of Dispute Resolution • Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources • Section of Family Law • Section of Labor and Employment Law • General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division • Section of Health Law • Section of International Law • Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities • Section of Labor and Employment Law • Law Practice Management Section • Section of Public Contract Law • Section of Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law • Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession • Section of Science and Technology Law • Seniors Lawyers Division • Standing Committee on Judicial Independence • Section of State and Local Government Law • Young Lawyers Division • Coalition for Justice

American Judicature Society • National Association of Women Judges

The New York Times runaway best-selling book “How Doctors Think” by Dr. Jerome Groopman, demonstrates how cognitive errors can distort physicians’ diagnostic processes, leading to faulty diagnoses. Are judges’ rulings any different? In this engaging program, the audience will use hand-held devices to “vote” on various fact patterns, indicating how they would “judge” each case. Panelists will then explain how the cognitive phenomena illustrated by the hypotheticals distort judicial decision making, and what can be done to prevent it. The “take-away”? Even (seemingly) rigorous legal analysis may be tainted by logical fallacies and biases, which can be outcome-determinative. And, although judges aspire to “the rule of law,” cognitive errors affecting judges’ decisions may sometimes result in “the rule of man”.

Panelists:

Jerome Groopman, M.D., author of the best selling book "How Doctors Think," Harvard Medical School professor, and staff writer for "The New Yorker" magazine, Boston, Massachusetts

Hon. Ann Claire Williams, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (and former District Court Judge), Chicago, Illinois

Hon. Alvin W. Thompson, U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut

Hon. Andrew J. Wistrich, leading scholar on "how judges think," U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Los Angeles, California

Mark J. Mills, J.D., M.D., nationally-renowned Forensic Psychiatrist, Washington, D.C.

Program Chair:

Hon. Delissa A. Ridgway, U.S. Court of International Trade, New York, New York

Book Signing:

Dr. Jerome Groopman will be signing copies of his best-selling book “How Doctors Think” immediately following the program. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.