

ABA Section of Litigation 2008 Ethics Centennial Symposium

PROGRAMING & EVENTS

Friday, April 18th

9:00am – 10:30am

Real to Reel: Ethics & Professionalism in the Courtroom

Join Section Annual Conference attendees as well as Ethics Centennial Symposium attendees for this kick-off plenary. Whether art imitates life or the other way around, the movies provide insight into who we are and how we are perceived. In this program, the ethical considerations of trial practice will be reviewed and discussed through a historical review of the big screen's most notable portrayals of the trial lawyer.

10:45am – 12:00pm

Litigators and Clients

Our primary duties run to our clients: consulting with the client, keeping the client informed, rendering competent representation, serving the client loyally, avoiding conflicts of interest, and keeping the client's confidences. Changes in laws and law practice place new pressures on the litigating lawyer's ability to uphold these duties. How can we navigate the new terrain and still meet our fundamental obligations to our clients?

12:15pm – 1:45pm

John Minor Wisdom Award Luncheon

Sponsored by: Stone Pigman Walther Wittman L.L.C.

Ticketed event: \$55

Join us at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill for the presentation of the 2008 John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Awards.

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Litigators and Each Other

What conduct should we require of litigators when dealing with colleagues? We see evidence that professional incivility is on the rise, and we experience it in our practice. Should we all develop thicker skins, or should the rules step in to check our behavior? Hear what others have to say, and express your own point of view on these topics.

3:30pm – 4:45pm

Litigators and the Courts

Litigators owe a duty of candor to the courts. Have we drawn the right balance? Have our duties to the court evolved as more of us practice in courtrooms outside our states of licensure? What types of sanctions do courts—and should courts—impose for ethical breaches? Join us for a lively debate on these issues.

4:45pm

Address by Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Reception

Saturday, April 19th

7:30am – 8:30am

Breakfast

8:30am – 9:45am

Litigators and the Public

Are courts too quick to find duties beyond the client, creating a risk that potential liability to third parties will compromise our primary obligations? Are litigators fulfilling our obligation to serve and educate the public? Come learn how others are grappling with these questions, and help shape the debate for the next century over our duties of public service.