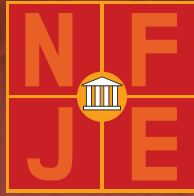


**22ND ANNUAL
JUDICIAL
SYMPOSIUM**



PILLARS OF JUSTICE

*INTEGRITY, IMPARTIALITY, AND
INSTITUTIONAL TRUST*

JULY 10–11, 2026

**GRAND HYATT
WASHINGTON DC**

Presented by



**NATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE**



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AFFIRMING JUSTICE

A strong, independent, educated, responsive judiciary that adheres to the rule of law is one of the hallmarks of a democratic society. While every citizen has an interest in the maintenance of an effective judicial system, lawyers (as officers of the court) have an even keener interest.

With that in mind, NFJE was formed 22 years ago to provide meaningful support and education to the judiciary.



PILLARS OF JUSTICE

INTEGRITY, IMPARTIALITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST

The judiciary is a pillar of democracy, ensuring that the rule of law prevails and that justice is administered fairly and impartially. Yet the principles of judicial impartiality and judicial independence face mounting pressures, making it more important than ever for judges and lawyers to reflect on the enduring values that sustain the American justice system. This symposium will open with a keynote drawing on insights from a lifetime of public service to explore the vital roles that judicial impartiality and independence play in preserving public trust in the courts and protecting the rule of law, how these foundational values guide judges in their duty to decide cases fairly, free from external pressures, and why safeguarding them remains essential to the strength and legitimacy of the judiciary.

This Symposium will also examine the Supreme Court's landmark 2025 term—the big issues, the big cases, and the big personalities that shaped it. Attendees will hear a powerful personal story from the first Latinx judge to serve on the Minnesota Court of Appeals, whose journey as a first-generation college and law school graduate provides insights to better appreciate the personal and professional obstacles of those we interact with and who appear before our courts.

Throughout the sessions, judges, academic thought leaders, and civil attorneys will engage with some of the most pressing challenges confronting the judiciary today. As litigation practices become more complex and commercially driven, a panel will explore how aggressive strategies involving mass-tort advertising, third-party funding, and settlement focused litigation tactics can strain judicial resources, raise costs for litigants and the public, and test existing procedural and ethical frameworks—while also examining the essential role appellate courts play in promoting transparency, fairness, and consistency and in preserving access to justice for legitimate claims. The Symposium will also explore the difficult task state supreme courts face in determining the provision of legal services, including potential reforms such as alternative pathways to bar admission, paraprofessional opportunities, and non-lawyer ownership of law firms, as courts seek to make justice accessible to all in light of limited supply and ever-increasing costs. And as litigants increasingly turn to generative AI for research, drafting, and strategy, a session on attorney-client privilege, work product protection, and ethical confidentiality will prepare appellate judges for the emerging questions surrounding whether such use falls within—or waives—traditional protections.

The Symposium will also address the craft of judicial writing itself, with a session drawing on cognitive science and decades of experience that diagnoses the specific writing habits that make reading harder than it needs to be and offers concrete techniques to align judicial opinions with how the human brain processes information. Through interactive dialogue and thoughtful reflection, the Symposium will discuss actionable solutions and a deeper appreciation for the judiciary's essential function in our democratic society. Together, we can work to ensure that our courts remain impartial, resilient, and committed to upholding the principles of justice.

2026 Annual Judicial Symposium
Pillars of Justice
Integrity, Impartiality, and Institutional Trust

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 10, 2026

- 1:30–4:00 p.m. **Speed Clerkship Interviewing Session with Law Students from The Appellate Project (TAP)**
A roundtable discussion for TAP law students about the benefits of clerking for state appellate courts. Following the discussion, we will facilitate informational speed interviews to give judges and candidates a chance to engage one-on-one.
- 4:30–4:45 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Kathleen M. Guilfoyle, *Campbell Conroy & O’Neil P.C.*
- 4:45–6:00 p.m. **Keynote: Quiet Counsel, Enduring Principles: Safeguarding Judicial Impartiality and Independence**
Drawing on insights from his memoir, *Quiet Counsel: Looking Back on a Life of Service to the Law*, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General and PepsiCo Executive Vice President and General Counsel Larry D. Thompson reflects on a lifetime in service to the law and examines the enduring principles that sustain the American justice system. As Deputy Attorney General under President George W. Bush, Mr. Thompson helped guide the administration through complex questions concerning privacy and security. At PepsiCo and as the Independent Compliance Monitor for Volkswagen, Mr. Thompson was center stage on important debates about corporate responsibility. In his book, Mr. Thompson emphasizes professionalism, judgment, integrity and restraint. He examines how judges serve as the ultimate role models for these qualities. Through personal experiences, historical perspective, and thoughtful reflection, he highlights the importance of these foundational values and how quiet counsel describes the very best tradition of the judiciary – lawyers and judges alike serving the law not with fanfare but with professionalism, impartiality and integrity.
Larry D. Thompson, *Finch McCraine, LLP*
- 6:00–7:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Welcome Reception followed by optional dine-around dinners at nearby restaurants.

Saturday, July 11, 2026

- 7:30–8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30–8:35 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Kathleen M. Guilfoyle, *Campbell Conroy & O’Neil P.C.*
Jodi V. Terranova, *Wilson Elser*
- 8:35–9:45 a.m. **We Live in Interesting Times: The Supreme Court’s Landmark Term**
Mr. Dupree will address the big issues, the big cases, and the big personalities that shaped the Supreme Court’s 2025 term.
Thomas H. Dupree, Jr., *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
- 9:45–10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00–11:00 a.m. **Guardians of the System: The Role of Appellate Courts in Preserving Civil Justice Integrity**
As litigation practices become more complex and commercially driven, appellate courts are increasingly asked to review cases shaped not only by claims of injury, but also by aggressive strategies involving mass-tort advertising, third-party funding, and settlement focused litigation tactics. This panel will explore how such practices can strain judicial resources, raise costs for litigants and the public, and test existing procedural and ethical frameworks—while also recognizing the essential role appellate courts play in mitigating these risks. Through discussion of recent civil litigation trends and judicial perspectives, the panel will examine how appellate judges, through doctrinal development, procedural oversight, and careful statutory interpretation, can promote transparency, fairness, and consistency, reinforce public confidence in the courts, and preserve access to justice for legitimate claims while curbing abuses of the civil justice system.
Moderator | Stef Zielezienski, *Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)*
Lina Bensman, *Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP*
Dale Wainwright, *Greenberg Traurig, Former Justice of the Texas Supreme Court*

- 11:00–12:00 p.m. **How the Brain Reads: Writing Clear and Concrete Judicial Opinions**
Judicial opinions fail readers not because judges lack skill but because judicial writing often ignores how the brain is wired. Drawing on cognitive science and decades of experience, this session diagnoses the specific writing habits that make reading harder than it needs to be. You will learn concrete techniques to align your writing with how the human brain processes information, drawn from *Zen and the Art of Persuasive Writing* (ABA 2026).
Vice Chief Judge David D. Weinzweig, *Arizona Court of Appeals*
- 12:00–1:30 p.m. **Featured Lunch Speaker – Winning with Civility**
Civility in America is under strain, and the legal profession feels that pressure acutely. Yet even as courtesy, professionalism, and respect seem to recede from daily practice, the ideals behind them remain powerful and deeply needed. Drawing on nearly a century of combined litigation experience, Ned Currie and Mills Gallivan have witnessed firsthand how acts of civility can transform a case, a career, and even a community. That conviction led them to create *The American Crisis in Civility: Professional Parables*, a book born from concern but fueled by hope.
The book brings together real stories from respected lawyers and judges: moments when grace prevailed over conflict, when professionalism changed the trajectory of a dispute, and when kindness restored trust. These parables remind us that civility is not weakness. It is a form of strength that elevates advocacy and reinforces the very foundation of justice.
Ned Currie will share several of these stories, offering a message that resonates far beyond the courtroom. Civility is not a lost ideal. It is a choice, and it begins with us.
Ned Currie, *Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A.*
- 1:30–2:30 p.m. **My Story: From Humble Beginnings to Professional Success**
The Honorable Peter M. Reyes, Jr., the first Latinx to serve on the Minnesota Court of Appeals, recounts his journey becoming a first-generation college then law school graduate, providing insights to better appreciate the personal and professional obstacles of those we interact with and who appear before the courts.
Judge Peter M. Reyes, Jr., *Minnesota Court of Appeals*
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. **Regulating the Practice of Law: Reforming and Reimagining Legal Services?**
Deciding cases, developing the law, and drafting opinions—that’s the easy stuff. With constitutional, statutory, or inherent power to regulate and supervise the practice of law, state appellate courts, with guidance from their appellate judges, have the harder task of determining the provision of legal—or quasi-legal—services. And that task is even more difficult when trying to make justice accessible to all in light of limited supply and ever increasing costs of legal services. This panel will discuss and debate potential reforms and reimagination of legal services, such as alternative pathways to bar admission, paraprofessional opportunities, and non-lawyer ownership of law firms, that state appellate courts are—or should be—considering.
Moderator | Mark A. Fahleson, *Rembolt Ludtke LLP*
Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, *Arizona Supreme Court*
Chief Justice Jeff Bivins, *Tennessee Supreme Court*
Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens, *Washington Supreme Court*
- 3:30–3:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:45–4:45 p.m. **Are You My Lawyer? Privilege, Work Product, and Ethical Confidentiality Issues for Non-Lawyer Use of GenAI Tools**
This presentation prepares appellate judges for the emerging questions surrounding attorney-client privilege, work product protection, and ethical-confidentiality rules when parties—whether an individual client or non-lawyer corporate employees—rely on generative AI (“GenAI”) tools in developing legal work. As litigants increasingly use GenAI for research, drafting, and strategy, courts will soon be asked to determine whether such use falls within—or waives—traditional protections. The session highlights the types of factual scenarios likely to reach appellate courts and the legal frameworks judges may need to apply or adapt.
Adam Gajadharsingh, *Google LLC*
E. Todd Presnell, *Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP*
- 4:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**
- 5:00–6:00 p.m. **Closing Reception**

Speakers



Lina Bensman

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Lina Bensman litigates “bet-the-company” commercial disputes and class actions, including breach of contract, fraud, and consumer claims.

Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation, including coordination of litigation strategy across state and international borders as well as management of simultaneous high-stakes litigations, arbitrations, and criminal investigations. She has led trial teams to success in federal and state court, both in jury and bench trials. She has successfully represented clients facing novel and challenging legal issues, and always ensures that the legal strategy serves the client’s business strategy.

Within Cleary, Lina is the principal author of Cleary’s Guide to Good Management.

Lina joined the firm in 2011.



Jeff Bivins

Chief Justice, Tennessee Supreme Court

Chief Justice Jeff Bivins took office as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court on July 16, 2014. He was appointed to this position by Governor Bill Haslam. He was elected to the remainder of the full term in August 2016. He was reelected in August 2022 to another eight-year term. Effective September 1, 2016, his colleagues elected him to the position of Chief Justice, a position he served in until September 2021. He was re-elected Chief Justice in September of 2025 and currently serves in that role. Prior to his appointment to the Tennessee Supreme Court, Justice Bivins was a judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals from August 2011 until July 2014. Previously, Justice Bivins also served as a Circuit Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District of Tennessee. He is a 1986 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law. He received a B.A. Degree, magna cum laude, in 1982 from East Tennessee State University, with a major in political science and a minor in criminal justice. Justice Bivins is a past President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.



Edward J. “Ned” Currie, Jr.

Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A.

Edward J. “Ned” Currie, Jr. is retired as a Senior Shareholder with Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A., with offices in Jackson and Biloxi, Mississippi. Before retirement he had over forty-eight years of experience in the courtroom and tried over one hundred seventy-five cases to verdict. He is an Ole Miss and the University of Mississippi School of Law graduate.

Ned is an Emeritus Member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) where he served on the Board of Directors and is current President-Elect of the FDCC Foundation. As a Founding Regent, Past President, and Emeritus Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, he is the namesake of the Edward Currie Founders Award for lifetime achievement in the field of insurance law. He is a past member of the American Law Institute where he served on the Consultative Group for the drafting of the Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance, and Advocate Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He served for seventeen years on the Mississippi Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure. Ned also is a Past President of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association, which bestowed him a Lifetime Achievement Award and named him Defense Lawyer of the Year. Ned also is a past recipient of an Exceptional Performance Citation from the Defense Research Institute.

He was peer selected by Best Lawyers as Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law, Jackson, MS, in 2024, 2021, and 2012; and 2016 Lawyer of the Year, Jackson, MS, for Personal Injury – Defense. He also has been named by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of Mississippi’s Top Ten Leaders in Law.

In addition to having taught evidence and trial practice as an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, Ned has served on the faculties of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, International Association of Defense and Corporate Counsel Trial Academy, and Trial Academies of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association.



Thomas H. Dupree

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP

Tom is an experienced trial and appellate advocate. He has argued more than 100 appeals in the federal courts, including in all 13 circuits as well as the United States Supreme Court. *Chambers and Partners* has named Tom one of the leading appellate lawyers in the United States every year since 2012.

Tom previously served in the United States Department of Justice. He was appointed Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division, and later became the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. In that capacity, he served as the division's second-in-command, overseeing the more than 900 lawyers in the Civil Appellate, Commercial, Federal Programs and Torts branches, as well as the Office of Immigration Litigation and the Office of Consumer Litigation.

Legal Times has called Tom "no stranger to high-profile work." Among other things, he played a substantial role in the successful representation of George W. Bush before the United States Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*, and represented New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady in challenging his "Deflategate" suspension.

Tom also argued and won, by a unanimous 9-0 vote, a landmark personal jurisdiction case in the United States Supreme Court, *Daimler AG v. Bauman*.

Other matters Tom has handled include:

- Persuading the Supreme Court to grant a petition for certiorari on behalf of a major automobile manufacturer and to vacate a \$290 million punitive damage award, which had been the largest personal injury award ever affirmed on appeal in United States history.
- Winning an appeal on behalf of Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a copyright and trademark case involving the New York Times #1 bestselling book *Deceptively Delicious*.
- Winning an appeal for singer-songwriter Bob Dylan in a multimillion-dollar breach of contract case.

Tom appears frequently on national television as a legal analyst. He is a regular guest on Fox News Channel and CNN. He has also appeared on CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, PBS NewsHour, ABC World News Tonight, and Good Morning America, as well as on MSNBC, CNBC, Bloomberg, Court TV, and C-Span. In addition, Tom has testified before Congress on constitutional and separation-of-powers issues, including the President's authority to act through executive order.

Tom graduated *cum laude* from Williams College, and with Honors from the University of Chicago Law School.

Speakers



Mark Fahleson
Rembolt Ludtke LLP

Mark Fahleson is a partner of Rembolt Ludtke LLP in Lincoln, Nebraska, practicing management-side employment and labor law and serving as the firm's Chief Strategy Officer. Mark's expertise and skill have earned him recognition, including being named as a Fellow in the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers and Employment Law (Management) Attorney 2026 "Lawyer of the Year" for Lincoln, Nebraska by The Best Lawyers in America®. He has previously served as the Chair of the NFJE Judicial Symposium Planning Committee and currently serves on the NFJE Board of Directors.



Adam Gajadharsingh
Google LLC

Adam is a Discovery Counsel at Google in Atlanta, where his practice focuses on all aspects of the litigation and government investigation discovery process, both in the United States and globally. This includes developing case discovery strategies, negotiating ESI protocols and protective orders, overseeing the collection, review, and production of documents, addressing complex privilege issues and disputes, and developing e-discovery best practices.

Prior to joining Google, Adam was a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where his practice focused on complex commercial litigation, e-discovery, data privacy/security, and information management. He also was a member of the team assisting the Special Compliance Coordinator appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to monitor, assess, and report on the U.S. export control compliance of Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment Corporation.

Over his career, Adam has trained hundreds of attorneys regarding privilege law, reviewed the validity of tens of thousands of privilege coding determinations, and regularly speaks about privilege and e-discovery issues. Adam was a co-team leader of the Sedona Conference Working Group 1 Drafting Team for the *Commentary on Privilege Logs* (2024). He was also a member of Sedona's drafting team for the *Commentary on Discovery of Collaboration Platforms Data* (2025), has been a faculty member of Sedona's *eDiscovery Negotiation Training* program, and is presently a member of Sedona's Working Group 1 Steering Committee.



Todd Presnell
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP

Todd Presnell is a partner in Bradley's Nashville office where he maintains an active trial practice, serves in discovery-counsel roles, and leads and advises on internal corporate investigations. He is a member of the peer-nominated American Board of Trial Advocates, has tried 29 cases to verdict, and argued before the Tennessee Supreme Court, Tennessee Court of Appeals, and the 6th, 7th, and 10th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Todd Presnell also counsels and advises in-house legal departments on the attorney-client and other evidentiary privileges. He is the lead author of the legal treatise, *Privileges and Protections: Tennessee and Sixth Circuit Law* (LexisNexis 2026) and is the sole creator and author of the popular legal blog *Presnell on Privileges*, which the *ABA Journal* has named to its Top 100 Blawg list. Todd Presnell has been interviewed and quoted on privilege issues by *The Wall Street Journal*, *Politico*, *Bloomberg News*, and various legal-news outlets.



Peter M. Reyes, Jr.

Judge, Minnesota Court of Appeals

The Honorable Peter M. Reyes, Jr. is a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. He is a former judicial law clerk, associate at Robins Kaplan, senior Intellectual Property lawyer at Cargill, Incorporated, and partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Judge Reyes served as president of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA), on the Board of Trustees for Mitchell-Hamline College of Law, and national president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). Judge Reyes is active in the American Bar Association (ABA) as a member of the House of Delegates, as an ABA Representative and Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and as chair of the Judicial Division's Ethics & Professionalism Committee. He serves on the Board of the American Bar Foundation (ABF) and as chair of the ABF Fellows Research Advisory Council. He recently served as president of the Executive Council for the Minnesota Historical Society and president of the U.S. National Committee of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA). Among his recognitions, Poder Magazine named him as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in America" in 2012 and 2013. Judge Reyes received the Ohtli Award in 2016, the highest award given out by the Mexican government to a non-Mexican citizen. He has received the ABA 2024 "Honorable William D. Missouri Civility" Award, the HNBA 2023 "Lifetime Achievement" Award, the 2019 "MHBA Courage in Leadership Award," and the 2019 ABA "Spirit of Excellence Award," among many other awards. Judge Reyes received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of St. Thomas and his law degree from Mitchell-Hamline College of Law, graduating with Honors.



Debra L. Stephens

Chief Justice, Washington Supreme Court

Chief Justice Stephens joined the Washington State Supreme Court in January 2008 and began serving a second time as Chief Justice in January 2025. She was previously a judge for Division Three of the Court of Appeals, and practiced law and taught state constitutional law as an adjunct professor at Gonzaga University School of Law. Her appellate career included more than 125 appearances in the Washington State Supreme Court, in addition to appearances in other state and federal courts and as counsel of record in the United States Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Stephens is deeply involved in efforts to advance justice and improve the legal system. She served on Washington's Civic Learning Council and Minority & Justice Commission, is a founding board member of the National Courts and Sciences Institute (NCSI) and a board member of the National Judicial College's Dividing the Waters program. She co-chairs the Washington Board for Judicial Administration and the National Association of Women Judges' Judicial Independence Committee. Internationally, she has worked with USAID to train foreign judges on issues of judicial independence and the rule of law. She has received numerous recognitions for her work and was named a Rodel Judicial Fellow in 2023.

Chief Justice Stephens and her husband, Craig, have two grown children and a granddaughter. She enjoys tennis, golf, pickleball and spending time outdoors in the beautiful Northwest.

Speakers



Larry D. Thompson
Finch McCraine, LLP

In 2017, Mr. Thompson was appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice as the Independent Corporate Compliance Monitor and Auditor for Volkswagen AG. Mr. Thompson previously served as PepsiCo's Executive Vice President of Government Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary until his retirement in 2014. At PepsiCo, he was responsible for the company's worldwide legal function, its government affairs and public policy organizations and its global citizenship and sustainability team. He also oversaw the company's global compliance function and served as President of the PepsiCo Foundation. Mr. Thompson's government career includes serving in the U.S. Department of Justice as the former U.S. Deputy Attorney General under George W. Bush (2001-2003). In 2002, Attorney General John Ashcroft named Mr. Thompson to lead the National Security Coordination Council. Also in 2002, President Bush named Mr. Thompson to head the Corporate Fraud Task Force. He led the Justice Department's Enron investigation. Previously, Mr. Thompson was a partner in the Atlanta, Georgia law firm of King & Spalding. From 1982-1986, Mr. Thompson served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. In that role, he directed the Southern Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and served on the Attorney General's Economic Crime Council. In July 1995, Mr. Thompson was appointed Independent Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Investigation by the Special Panel of U.S. Circuit Court Judges appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In April 2000, Mr. Thompson was selected by Congress to chair the Judicial Review Commission on Foreign Asset Control. Larry holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Culver-Stockton College, a Master's degree from Michigan State University, a Law degree from the University of Michigan, an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Pace University in New York, and an Honorary Doctorate from St. Louis University. Larry's first book, *Quiet Counsel*, was released in November 2024.



Ann A. Scott Timmer
Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court

Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer joined the Arizona Supreme Court in 2012. She was elected by her colleagues as Vice Chief Justice in 2019 and she was sworn in as Chief Justice in July 2024 for a five-year term. Justice Timmer is a member of the National Conference of Bar Examiners Board of Trustees (Secretary), has been elected to The American Law Institute and serves on the Conference of Chief Justices Board of Directors, and as the Conference's Liaison to the ABA House of Delegates. Among other recognitions, she has been named one of a New Decade of Arizona's Most Intriguing Women (2022), an ABA Journal and ABA Center for Innovation Legal Rebel (2021), the Arizona Capitol Times Woman of the Year (2020) and was elected to the Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court bench, Justice Timmer served on the Arizona Court of Appeals for twelve years, serving as its chief judge for three years. Before joining the bench, Justice Timmer practiced law in Phoenix, focusing primarily on commercial litigation. Justice Timmer earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona, her J. D. magna cum laude, from Arizona State University Law School (now the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law), and a Masters in Judicial Studies from Duke University Law School.



Dale Wainwright
Greenberg Traurig

Dale Wainwright is a Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig and Co-Chair of the firm's National Appeals & Legal Issues Group. He brings a useful and informative perspective to the topic of the engagement of appellate courts with emerging legal issues having addressed them in private practice and as a trial and appellate jurist.

Dale was the first African American elected to the Supreme Court of Texas, without being appointed first, successfully navigating contested primary, primary-runoff, and general election contests in 2002. He served on the Court until 2012 and participated in resolving more than 10,000 appeals before returning to private practice. Prior to the appellate bench, he served by appointment of Governor George W. Bush as presiding judge of the 334th Civil District Court in Houston, Texas.

In private practice, Dale has handled as appellate counsel matters of great consequence. They include successfully handling multibillion-dollar personal injury and commercial verdicts in Texas, other states, and federal circuit courts, and obtaining important precedents in healthcare and products liability appeals. Informed and disciplined appellate and trial strategies facilitate favorable judgments and leverage favorable settlements. Greenberg Traurig's Texas Appellate Practice Group has thwarted more than \$16 billion in damages sought against clients over the last seven years.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the Litigation Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, formerly served as Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, and is recognized by *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500*, and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Howard University in economics (*summa cum laude*), his law degree from the University of Chicago School of Law, and he studied abroad at the London School of Economics & Political Science.



David D. Weinzwieg
Vice Chief Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals

David D. Weinzwieg is Vice Chief Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, and author of *Zen and the Art of Persuasive Writing*. Before joining the bench, Judge Weinzwieg spent decades in government and private practice, specializing in constitutional law and antitrust law. He co-authored legal treatises on antitrust law, consumer protection and benchmarking. Judge Weinzwieg has authored thousands of orders, opinions and memorandum decisions. He regularly teaches the art and science of writing to judges, law clerks, lawyers and law students nationwide, using his experience and the latest cognitive science to deliver actionable techniques grounded in how readers actually process information.



Stef Zielezienski
American Property Casualty Insurance Association

J. Stephen ("Stef") Zielezienski serves as executive vice president and chief legal officer at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA). In this capacity, he works with the policy, advocacy, legal and communications staff in its holistic approach to public policy thought leadership, and is responsible for APCIA's top policy priority, reducing legal system abuse. Prior to the merger of the American Insurance Association (AIA) and the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) that created APCIA, Zielezienski held the position of senior vice president and general counsel for 14 of his 22 years at AIA.

Before joining the industry, Stef was with the Washington, DC offices of Mintz Levin and Wiley Rein and clerked for the Honorable Richard L. Nygaard of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Stef is a 1989 graduate of Columbia Law School, where he co-directed the moot court program and was executive editor of the Columbia Business Law Review. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Columbia College in New York City, where he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

You don't want to miss this year's event, we are returning to Washington D.C!



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To register:

Phone: 312.698.6202

Email: cpalombizio@nfje.net

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Registration for the 22nd Annual Judicial Symposium is first come first served. Once you register on www.NFJE.net, you are welcome to make reservations at the Grand Hyatt Washington DC under the NFJE room block. For your (up to two nights) stay to be covered, you must be registered for the program. We will reimburse you for up to \$500 for your flight.

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Cancellations are accepted up to three weeks in advance, please email your request in writing to cpalombizio@nfje.net

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