Recommended Practices for Civil Jury Trials in Multnomah County Circuit Court

Both the Oregon Constitution and the Constitution of the United States guarantee the right to jury trial in civil cases. For those guarantees to remain meaningful and vital, the bench and bar must continually look for ways to improve the way jury trials are conducted. Following the 2004 Jury Summit in Multnomah County, convened at the visit of then-ABA President Robert Grey, a task force of judges and lawyers was formed to study the ABA’s newly-released Principles for Juries and Jury Trials. The task force was comprised of trial judges and experienced plaintiff and defense counsel from the civil practice bar. The group considered its collective trial experiences, studied research and proposals from jury reform efforts in other states and met from 2006 until early 2008 in crafting these recommendations. Join Judge Janice Wilson, Multnomah County Circuit Court; and Michael Simon, Perkins Coie LLP for a two-hour class that will review the civil jury trial practices recommended by the task force.

Issues to be addressed include:

* Trial Scheduling
* Exhibits
* Neutral Statement of the Case
* Deposition Testimony and Objections
* Pre-Trial Conferences
* Jury Selection
* Trial Procedures
* The Vanishing Jury Trial

For more information: Call Catherine Brinkman of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt PC at 503.222.9981. For registration inquiries, please call the MBA at 503.222.3275.

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