

APRIL 2016 MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 (1.0 PDH)

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Thoughts and Musings About Expert Witnesses in Civil Trials - A View from the Bench

Speaker: Grant Dorfman, Judge on the 334 District Court. Tel. (713) 306-0513

Judge Grant Dorfman was appointed to serve as the Judge of the 334th District Court of Harris County by Texas Governor Rick Perry in October 2013 and was re-elected in November 2014. Prior to his appointment he was the in-house attorney in charge of litigation for Nabors Industries, the world's largest land-based drilling contractor.

Judge Dorfman also served as the Judge of the 129th District Court from 2002 to 2008. A native Texan, Judge Dorfman obtained an A.B. in Honors History from Brown University, a Master of Studies (M.St.) in History and Political Philosophy from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the Yale Law School. After law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and subsequently practiced commercial litigation for ten years with two Houston law firms: Susman Godfrey and Ogden, Gibson, White & Broocks.

Judge Dorfman is a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College and formerly taught pretrial litigation and trial advocacy as an adjunct faculty member of the University of Houston Law Center. A Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, Judge Dorfman also serves on the Houston Bar Association's Communities in Schools Committee is an ASTAR (Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource) Judge, and was the judicial liaison to the HBA Securities Litigation & Arbitration Section, a member of the State Bar Pattern Jury Charge Committee and of the Supreme Court Code of Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Judge Dorfman presented his "view from the bench" -- a judicial perspective on how experts can make or break a case at trial, featuring common-sense "Do's" and "Don'ts" for how you can avoid common traps and pitfalls, strengthen your testimony, and enhance your presentation and, hopefully, become an overall better and more persuasive expert witness.