



WISCONSIN CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL, INC.

Promoting Fairness and Equity in Wisconsin's Civil Justice System

About the Summit Speakers:

J. Ric Gass is one of the five founding members of Gass Weber Mullins. Ric is a Fellow and 2009-2010 Vice President of the Litigation Counsel of America and serves on the LCA Advisory Board and will be president of the Litigation Counsel of America in 2011. He serves as both national trial and supervising counsel for a number of insurers and self-insured corporations. In addition to his active trial practice Mr. Gass has served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School and has been regularly invited to do ten or more presentations a year at national legal conferences in his specialty area of trial presentation. His practice is nationwide with cases pending from Miami to Hawaii. He has tried almost 300 cases to verdict, mostly defending corporations and insurers.

Michael B. Brennan is a partner in the Milwaukee litigation firm of Gass Weber Mullins LLC. He tries cases and handles appeals in federal and state courts, primarily in the areas of commercial litigation and catastrophic tort defense. Brennan served 9 years as a judge on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court where he presided over nearly 300 trials and thousands of motions. Brennan has published more than 40 articles on federal practice and procedure and other topics in a variety of law reviews, newspapers, and other periodicals including The Wall Street Journal National Review and New Republic, He has also given more than 50 speeches and continuing legal and judicial educational presentations throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states.

Brian G. Cahill is one of the five founding members of Gass Weber Mullins and helps direct the firm's IT strategies. Mr. Cahill practices in the area of civil trial law, with his primary areas of practice in commercial and personal injury litigation. His practice includes cases in a variety of jurisdictions outside of Wisconsin, as well as Wisconsin state and federal courts. Mr. Cahill returned to private practice in February 2004 after serving as Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Racine-based CNH America LLC, the U.S.A. company resulting from the merger of New Holland N.V. and Case Corporation in 1999.

Judge Rudolph Randa was appointed to the U.S. District Court, Eastern District, WI in 1992—one year prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Daubert* decision. He was the Chief Judge of the Court serving as the Court's lead judicial administrative officer from 2002 through October 2009. In 1979, Randa was elected Circuit Judge for Milwaukee County. He was appointed to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in 1981. Randa was re-appointed Circuit Judge and re-elected Circuit Judge in 1983, where he served until 1992.

John Sear has a uniquely diverse product liability defense practice, having successfully tried or litigated a wide variety of cases involving medical devices and institutional chemical products. John has briefed and argued *Daubert* motions in such far-ranging fields as orthopedics, chemistry, human factors, obstetrics, mechanical engineering, toxicology, epidemiology, biostatistics, immunology, and veterinary medicine, and defended favorable rulings on appeal. He frequently lectures and publishes on civil litigation practice and procedure, with an emphasis on *Daubert* and summary judgment issues. He is the founder and principal author of the blog www.daubertuncensored.com and a co-author of the DRI's 2011 *Daubert* Compendium.

Dan La Fave is an attorney in the Milwaukee office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. In close to 20 years of practice, he has tried cases to verdict in 7 states, and handled product liability lawsuits and serious injury investigations in more than 30 states. He represents product manufacturers on both a national and regional basis, serving as both trial and appellate counsel and providing advice on a wide range of product liability issues for both consumer and industrial products.

Don Best is a trial lawyer and a Michael Best & Friedrich LLP's Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group. Mr. Best has many years of experience handling complex, high profile IP cases for clients in a wide variety of industry sectors. He also has significant experience in cases involving fraud, government contracts, unfair competition and antitrust. Mr. Best has extensive trial, arbitration and mediation experience, including matters involving patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights. telecommunications, medical devices and a wide variety of commercial products.

Ed Sarskas is a Co-Chair for Michael Best & Friedrich LLP's Class Action/ MDL Team and a partner in the firm's Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Groups. Mr. Sarskas has significant experience handling complex commercial litigation concerning intellectual property rights, including patents, trademarks and copyrights, as well as unfair competition, advertising, trade secrets, and related contract disputes.

Travis Rhoades Travis is a shareholder at Crivello Carlson. His practice is focused on the defense of product liability and toxic tort claims and construction claims in both personal injury and property damages cases. Travis represents clients in Wisconsin and across the Midwest, and is responsible for litigation coordination for national and multinational product manufacturers in product liability and toxic tort cases. He manages regional and national toxic tort litigation for several clients, and has appeared in state and federal courts from California to Maine. He has previously spoken to WDC and the Milwaukee Bar Association on product liability issues in Wisconsin litigation, including the problems of verdict formulation and the assignment of damages in multiple defendant litigation.

Sam Hall is a shareholder at Crivello Carlson. His principal practice focuses on civil rights litigation, appellate practice, products liability and sports and entertainment law. Sam is admitted to practice in Wisconsin and New York state courts, the United States Supreme Court, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and federal district courts in Wisconsin, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania. Based on his experience in defending law enforcement officers in cases involving allegations of civil rights, Sam has been a keynote speaker for various law enforcement organizations and is also an instructor for a Master's level course offered by the University of Wisconsin for law enforcement command staff.