

Breakfast with the Judges Program

9:00am

1 Ethics Credit

On Zoom or in the Room???

So much has changed in the practice of law over the past few years. The Covid-19 pandemic has materially altered how we practice law. This has been assisted by the impact and use of technology, both in the discovery process and in the practice itself. When was the last time you appeared in court personally? As we return to the court room, which is preferable? How has the use of more video and telephone conferencing impacted the profession and the civility among practitioners?

This program will address some of the issues raised by these changes and simultaneously give you an opportunity to meet and interact with the judges of the state, county, and federal courts.

The format is this: Each table has been given the same 3 questions. You will be given 15 minutes to discuss the first question with your table. You should first appoint one person to act as spokesperson for the table. After 15 minutes, we will ask some of you to report out on your discussion.

After the report out we will ask the judge at each table to get up and move to another table so that more attorneys can interact with you. At the second table, the discussion will commence for the second question with a similar report out. If we have time, we will proceed to the third question.

The Following questions will be discussed:

- We have now had remote hearings, arguments, and other proceedings for several years. Many courts are now returning to in person proceedings. Discuss the pros and cons of remote vs. in person from the attorney's perspective and the court's perspective, including how each affects civility.
- Depositions are often conducted via video or telephone. Have you had any experience with counsel "coaching" their witnesses because the deposition is not in person? How have you handled this? Have you brought this to the attention of the court and what was the result? How should judges approach these issues?
- Many settlement conferences and mediations have taken place via video. Have they been successful? Should we return to all in person or keep a hybrid approach and why?
- How has the practice of law via remote hearings over the past years affected the development of younger attorneys and do they need additional coaching/training prior to returning to the courtroom?

Speakers:

Hon. Michael H. Wojcik

Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan

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