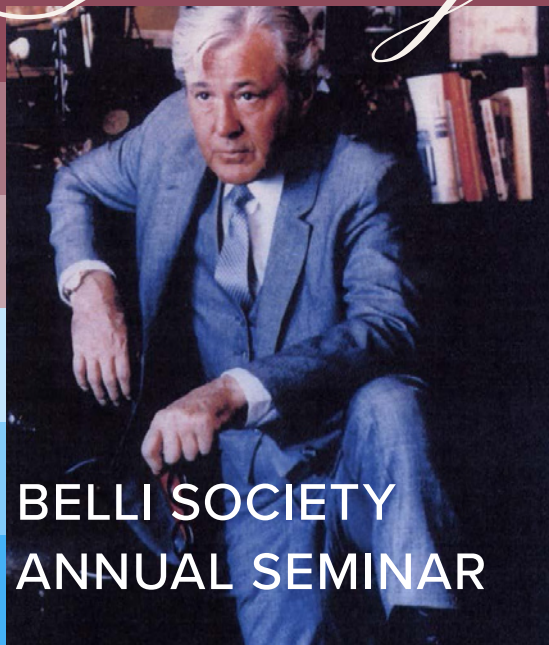




MELVIN M. BELLI

Society



MELVIN M. BELLI SOCIETY
75TH ANNUAL SEMINAR

MARRIOTT PHILADELPHIA DOWNTOWN
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
GRAND BALLROOM 5TH FLOOR, SALONS A-D
FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

If you are interested in joining the Society, see information in program on page 13.

MELVIN M. BELLI, SR.

JULY 29, 1907 – JULY 9, 1996

Mel Belli was born into a pioneer family in Sonora, Tuolumne County, the heart of California's Gold Rush region. His father, Caesar Belli, was born in Eureka, Nevada and was a prominent banker in California's Mother Lode region. His grandmother, Anna Mouron, was California's first woman druggist. Henri Mouron was a professor of languages at St Augustine's College and headmaster of the Young Ladies Seminar of St. Mary's of the Pacific, one of the first schools in California.

Mel Belli attended elementary schools in Sonora and Stockton, California, before attending the University of California and Boalt Hall School of Law, Berkeley where he received his LLB in 1933. His first job after graduation was posing as a hobo for the Works Progress Administration and riding on the railroad to observe the Depression's impact on the USA vagrant population. His findings were later used as the basis for transient relief programs throughout the nation.

He was admitted to the California Bar in November 1933 and served as counsel for the Catholic priest at San Quentin Prison. He accepted the challenge of representing men on Death Row. Thus began a legal career representing individuals in personal injury cases and in raising personal injury awards to then-unprecedented heights that earned him the title of "The King of Torts" by Life Magazine writer Robert Wallace in a 1954 profile. Wallace later wrote a book about Mel Belli and his work entitled, *"Life and Limb."*

In his first personal injury lawsuit, Mel Belli represented an injured cable car grip-man. Over defense attorneys' objections, Belli brought a large model of a cable car intersection, and the gearbox and chain involved in the accident, to court to demonstrate to the jurors exactly what happened. Mel Belli was called the "Father of Demonstrative Evidence" for his pioneering work in illustrating in court the nature of his client's injuries. His early use of photographs, movies, scale models, human skeletons, animals, prostheses, and other devices was dramatic, riveting, and highly effective.

Mel Belli's high profile clients included Mae West, Errol Flynn, Lenny Bruce, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Muhammad Ali, Alex Haley, the so-called "Angel of Death" – the Nevada nurse accused of murdering patients, television evangelist Jim Bakker and his wife Tammy Faye, the Korean jetliner disaster, the MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas, the collapse of the Kansas City Hyatt walkway, the Benedictine birth defect cases, and Sirhan Sirhan. In his best known case, Mel Belli represented Jack Ruby on trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Belli attempted to show that Ruby was legally insane and had a history of mental illness in his family. On March 14, 1964, Ruby was convicted of "murder with malice" and received a death sentence. However, in late 1966, Ruby's conviction was overturned by the Texas Appellate Court, and he was granted a new trial outside of Dallas. Ruby died before the second trial could take place. Belli wrote a book, *"Dallas Justice,"* on his perspective of the Jack Ruby case.

Belli wrote more than 60 books including the multi-volume, *"Modern Trials,"* which is still considered a classic textbook on demonstrative evidence. Mel Belli loved the law and the limelight equally and left behind a legacy of both creative and controversial "lawyering." Belli reveled in his victories and after winning a big case, raised a Jolly Roger on the roof of his landmark building in San Francisco and fired off two blasts from a signal cannon. Belli once said, "There may be better lawyers than I, but so far I haven't come across any of them in court."

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The Melvin M. Belli Society is an international group of trial lawyers dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Belli legal legacy.



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www.bellisociety.org

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Munley Law, PC
Scranton, PA

Justin Kahn

Kahn Law Firm, LLP
Charleston, SC

Morning Session Moderator: Jason Konvicka

9:00 am – 9:05 am

Opening Remarks



Marion Munley, Esq.

Munley Law, PC
Scranton, PA

9:05 am – 9:10 am

Opening Remarks



Jason Konvicka, Esq.

Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen
Richmond, VA

9:10 am – 9:25 am

Avoiding Hackers and Bar Complaints: Technology Due Diligence?



Tad Thomas, Esq.

Thomas Law Offices, PLLC
Louisville, KY
tad@thomaslawoffices.com
www.thomaslawoffices.com

9:25 am – 9:40 am

Build A Legacy With Your Firm



Edward Allen, Esq.

Richmond, VA
edward.allen@allenandallen.com
www.allenandallen.com

9:40 am – 9:55 am

Dynamic Public Speaking for Trial Lawyers



Chadrick Mance, Esq.

The Mance Law Firm
Savannah, GA
mancelawgroup@gmail.com
www.mancelaw.com

9:55 am – 10:05 am

The Importance of Protecting the Plaintiff's Benefits



The Halpern Group

Natalie Sticesen
Springfield, NJ
natalie@halperngroup.com
www.halperngroup.com

10:05 am – 10:20 am

How Thinking Like a Photographer Can Help Trial Lawyers



Patrick Malone, Esq.

Patrick Malone & Associates

Washington DC

pmalone@patrickmalonelaw.com

www.patrickmalonelaw.com

10:20 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Top Non-Legal Books Trial Lawyers Need for Their Practice



Ken Levinson, Esq.

Levinson and Stefani Injury Lawyers

Chicago, IL

ken@levinsonstefani.com

www.levinsonstefani.com

10:45 am – 11:00 am

Cutting-Edge Access to Justice Developments



Arthur H. Bryant, Esq.

Bailey Glasser, LLP

Oakland, CA

abryant@baileyglasser.com

www.baileyglasser.com

11:00 am – 11:15 am

Dehydrated to Death by the ICU: How Broken Systems Are Killing Patients



Adam Malone, Esq.

Malone Law Office

Atlanta, GA

adammm@malonelaw.com

www.malonelaw.com

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Trial Preparation: Mass Shooting Cases



Randall H. Scarlett, Esq.

Scarlett Law Group
San Francisco, CA
rscarlett@scarlettlawgroup.com
www.scarlettlawgroup.com

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

The Sandy Hook Shooting: The Case Against Alex Jones



Josh Koskoff, Esq.

Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, PC
Bridgeport, CT
JKoskoff@koskoff.com
www.koskoff.com

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Lunch

Afternoon Session Moderator: Patrick Malone

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm

Anchoring Bias: How it Affects Us and Why It's Important



Bruce H. Stern, Esq.

Stark & Stark
Lawrenceville, NJ
bstern@stark-stark.com
www.stark-stark.com

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

The New US Supreme Court and the Civil Justice System: The Emerging Record



Paul Bland, Esq.

Public Justice Foundation
Washington DC
pbland@publicjustice.net
www.publicjustice.net

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Getting the Defense Off The Fence – They Key to Preparing Cases for Trial and Settlement



Joseph A. Fried, Esq.

Fried Goldberg, LLC
Atlanta, GA
joe@friedgoldberg.com
www.friedgoldberg.com

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Safety Rules in Practice: Building a Winnable Case from the Ground Up



Zoe Littlepage, Esq.

Littlepage Booth
Houston, TX
zoe@littlepagebooth.com
www.littlepagebooth.com

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Building Your Theme Through Adverse Witnesses



Kyle Findley, Esq.

Arnold & Itkin
Houston, TX
kfindley@arnolditkin.com
www.arnolditkin.com

1:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Show Don't Tell – Visual Persuasion



Justin S. Kahn, Esq.

Kahn Law Firm, LLP
Charleston, SC
jskahn@kahnlawfirm.com
www.kahnlawfirm.com

2:00 pm – 2:10 pm

Case on Life Care Plans



Physician Life Care Planning Joseph Gonzales

San Antonio, TX
josephj@physicianlcp.com
www.physicianlcp.com

2:10 pm – 2:25 pm

Why It Is Important to Divide and Conquer



Christian Morris, Esq.

Christian Morris Trial Attorneys
Henderson, NV
christian@cmtrialattorneys.com
cmtrialattorneys.com

2:25 pm – 2:40 pm

Representing Survivors of Sexual Exploitation



Neil T. O'Donnell

O'Donnell Law Offices
Kingston, PA
ntod@odonnell-law.com
www.odonnell-law.com

2:40 pm – 2:50 pm

Break

2:50 pm – 3:05 pm

Father-in-Law – Lessons in Law from a Father and Son



Eric Romano, Esq.
John Romano, Esq.

Romano Law Group
Palm Beach, FL
eric@romanolawgroup.com
john@romanolawgroup.com
romanolawgroup.com



3:05 pm – 3:20 pm

Pivoting to a Different Trial Strategy: A Case Study



Marion Munley, Esq.

Munley Law, PC
Scranton, PA
mmunley@munley.com
www.munley.com



Andrew Buzin, Esq.

Buzin Law PC
New York, NY
abuzin@buzinlaw.com
www.buzinlaw.com

3:20 pm – 3:35 pm

PTSD and the Brain



Florence A. Murray, Esq.

Murray & Murray, Co.

Sandusky, OH

fam@murrayandmurray.com

www.murrayandmurray.com

3:35 pm – 3:50 pm

Don't Let Your Clients Trip Up.. Again: Updated Paradigm For Premises Cases & “Avoidable Accidents” Using “The Cone of Vision”



Tom Vesper, Esq.

Westmoreland, Vesper & Quattrone

Pleasantville, NJ

tom@westmorelandvesper.com

westmorelandvesper.com/

3:50 pm – 3:55 pm

Closing Remarks



Jason Konvicka

Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen

Richmond, VA

MELVIN M. BELLI *Society*

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MELVIN M. BELLI SOCIETY MEMBER?

You need to be nominated by two existing Belli Society members. The members nominating you need to send your name and contact information to Belli Society Membership Chair, Ronnie Berke of Chattanooga, TN at ronnie@berkeattys.com. Once you receive an invitation letter, you will be prompted to pay a \$1,000 initiation fee. This fee includes your first year's dues. You will mail your check to the Melvin M. Belli Society Executive Office. If you have any questions please contact info@bellisociety.org.

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