#### DELAWARE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

# MAXIMIZING LEGAL ANALYTICS AS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN DELAWARE STATE TRIAL COURTS 2022

#### **DSBA WEBINAR VIA ZOOM**

SPONSORED BY THE DELAWARE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022 | 9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

2.5 Hours of CLE credit for Delaware and Pennsylvania Attorneys

#### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Join the Delaware State Bar Association and Trellis for an engaging webinar as we cover how legal analytics enables you to analyze the behavior and history of your judge, competitive counsel, prospects, and clients to gain crucial insights into litigation history and ruling tendencies. We'll show you how to leverage state trial court – and verdict – data to be more efficient, more proactive, and achieve better results for your clients. You'll learn how to maximize legal analytics to gain a competitive advantage, win cases and bring in more money when litigating in Delaware state trial courts.

#### Topics will include:

- Judge Analytics and Ruling History
- Draft Stronger Motions, Faster
- Case Valuation and Verdict Data
- Strategic Delaware State Court Research
- Alerts Stay Informed

Discover how you can capitalize on legal analytics in Delaware state court data to make more informed decisions. We encourage you to join this informative session to add value to your practice. We'll get things started March 29 at 12:00 p.m. Hope to catch you there!

#### **PRESENTERS**

James H. S. Levine, Esquire
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP

Kristin S. Swift, Esquire Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton Fires & Newby, LLP

> Nicole Clark, Esquire CEO of Trellis Research, Inc.

Visit https://www.dsba.org/event/maximizing-legal-analytics-as-a-competitive-advantage-in-delaware-state-trial-courts-2022/ for all the DSBA CLE seminar policies.

Please note that the attached materials are supplied by the speakers and presenters and are current as of the date of this posting.

## **Presenters**

James H. S. Levine, Esquire
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, LLP
Kristin S. Swift, Esquire
Weber Gallagher Simpson Stapleton
Fires & Newby, LLP
Nicole Clark, Esquire
CEO of Trellis Research, Inc.

#### Kristen Swift, Esquire

Kristen provides insurance coverage opinions, appellate assistance, and litigates in all Delaware courts in myriad areas including employment, civil rights, insurance, subrogation, contract disputes, construction, general liability, workers' compensation, professional malpractice, and bankruptcy. Kristen routinely represents business owners, non-profits, and homeowner's associations. She also helps out-of-state counsel understand the "Delaware Way" as they navigate the Delaware courts. Before joining Weber Gallagher, Kristen was an in-house litigator for a Fortune 100 insurance company. In 2013-2014, she was Wolcott Fellow to former Justice Jack B. Jacobs of the Delaware Supreme Court. While in law school, Kristen also interned for Chief Judge Leonard P. Stark in the U.S District Court, District of Delaware, and for the Honorable Mary F. Walrath in the U.S Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware. Kristen was the first Web Content Editor for the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law and graduated magna cum laude.

Kristen is the Chair of the Delaware State Bar Association's Litigation Section and Immediate Past Chair of its Torts & Insurance Section, and member of the Delaware Defense Counsel, Delaware Claims Association, and The Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court. Kristen is a co-editor of the American Bar Association Business and Corporate Litigation Committee Newsletter and is a Delaware Superior Court Certified Mediator. She is on the editorial board of the Delaware State Bar Journal and recently launched a woman-lawyer focused column that appears quarterly, *LAW: Women, Advocacy & the Law.* 

# Maximizing Legal Analytics as a Competitive Advantage in Delaware State Trial Courts



Weber ☐ Gallagher March 29, 2022







### **Your Presenter**

#### Kristen Swift, Partner @ Weber Gallagher

Kristen is a general practitioner who provides insurance coverage opinions, appellate assistance, and litigates across the Delaware courts in myriad areas of the law including, employment, civil rights, insurance, subrogation, contract disputes, construction, general liability, malpractice, and bankruptcy.

Before joining Weber Gallagher, Kristen was an in-house litigator for a Fortune 100 insurance company. In 2013-2014, she was Wolcott Fellow to former Justice Jack B. Jacobs of the Delaware Supreme Court. While in law school, Kristen also interned for Chief Judge Leonard P. Stark in the U.S District Court, District of Delaware, and for the Honorable Mary F. Walrath in the U.S Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware. Kristen was the first Web Content Editor for the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law and graduated magna cum laude.

### **Your Presenter**

**James Levine, Partner @ Troutman Pepper** 



James frequently serves as Delaware counsel in high stakes intellectual property disputes, including patent and trademark litigation.

He has led litigation teams in cases involving corporate governance, corporate control, fiduciary duties, breach of contract, fraud, intellectual property, and trade secrets.

He has extensive experience in various types of Delaware corporate litigation.

Graduate of University of Delaware | Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law



### **Your Presenter**

#### Nicole Clark, Attorney & Trellis CEO

Business litigation and labor and employment attorney who has handled litigation in both state and federal courts.

Worked at a variety of law firms ranging from mid-size litigation boutiques to large firms, and is licensed to practice law in three states.

Deeply committed to helping lawyers leverage technology to gain a competitive advantage and achieve more favorable outcomes for their clients.

Graduate of University of Massachusetts, Amherst | Rutgers University School of Law

# Agenda

- 1 | Judge Analytics and Ruling History
- 2 I Draft Stronger Motions, Faster
- 3 I Case Valuation & Verdict Data
- 4 | Strategic State Court Research + Alerts
- 5 | Professional Responsibility & Technology

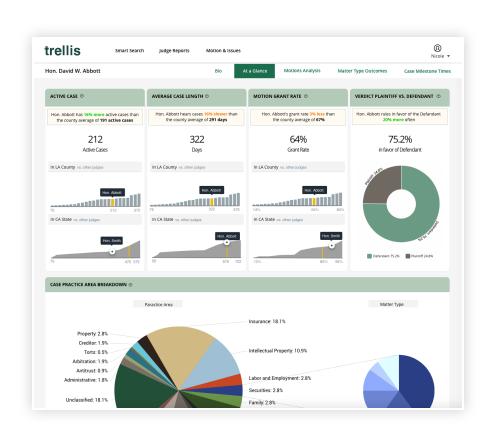
#### Section 1

# Judge Analytics and Ruling History

# **Understanding Your Judge**

Knowing your judge's tendencies can make the difference between: Granted & Denied

**Trellis** 



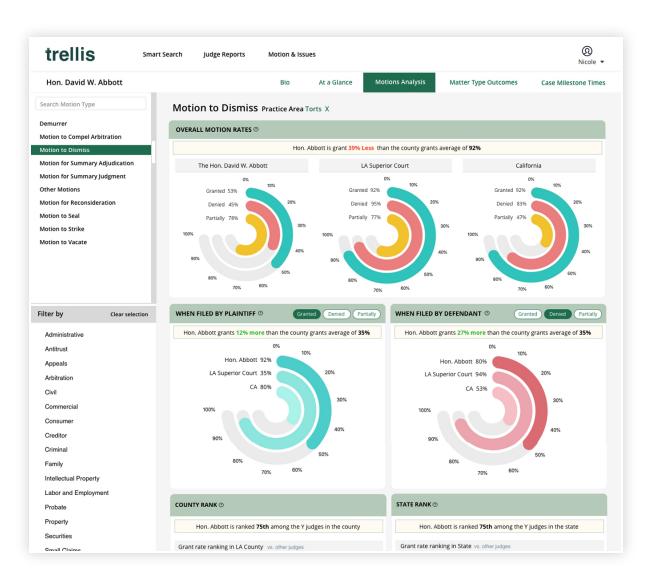
- How does your judge rule on Case Dispositive Issues?
- Is it possible to craft motions tailored to your judge?
- What caselaw does your judge find most persuasive?

# Ways to Maximize Likelihood of Success Before Your Judge

Considerations when deciding to request reassignment to a different judge ...

- Use analytics to understand your judge's ruling history
- Identify the potential risks of re-assignment
- Think through litigation & motion strategy (MSJ?)
- Discuss strategy with your client & set expectations

# Let's Dive In

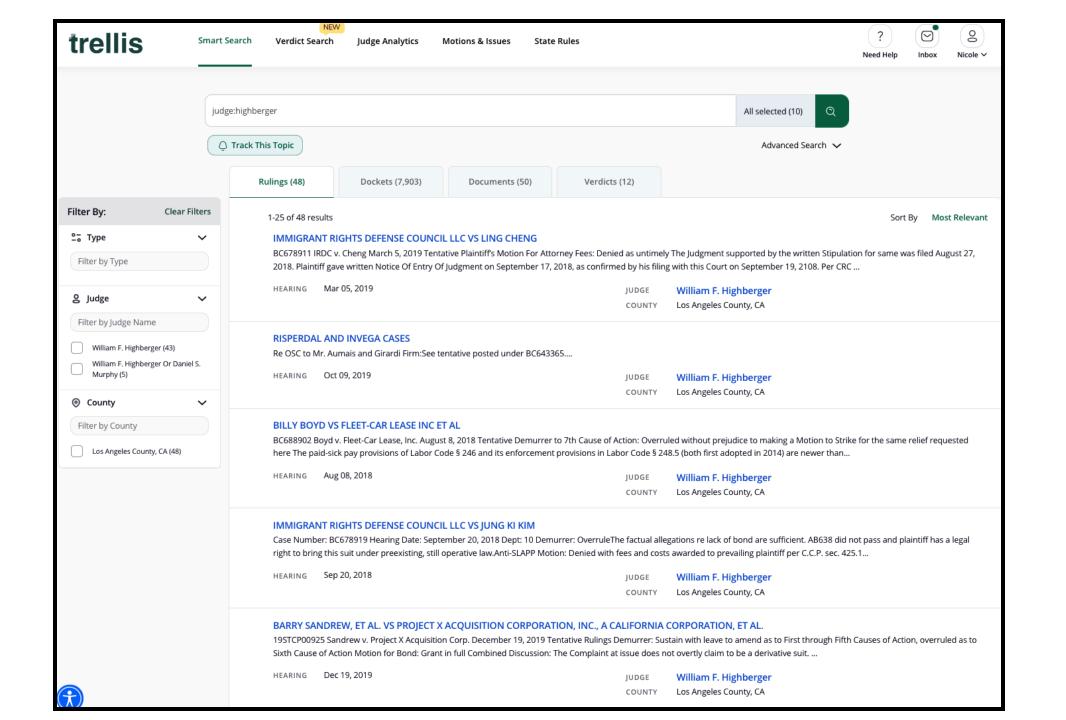


# Contextual Judge Research

Digging in on your judge's thought process ...

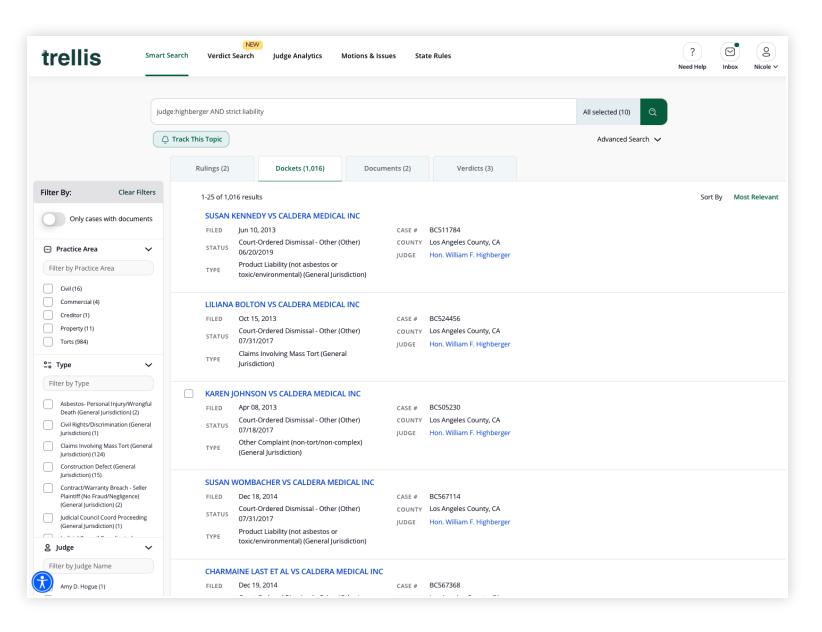
- How does your judge think about particular legal issues?
- How does your judge analyze particular motions?

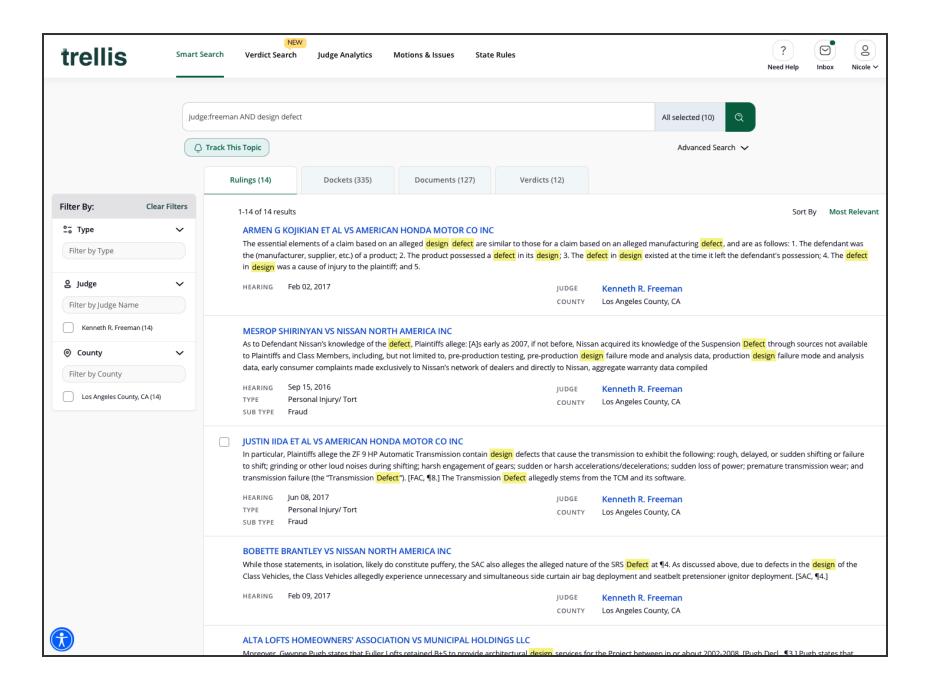
- What caselaw is most persuasive to your judge?
- What language do they use when ruling on particular causes of action?



# Add Case Dispositive Issues to the Search

JUDGE:HIGHBERGER AND "STRICT LIABILITY"



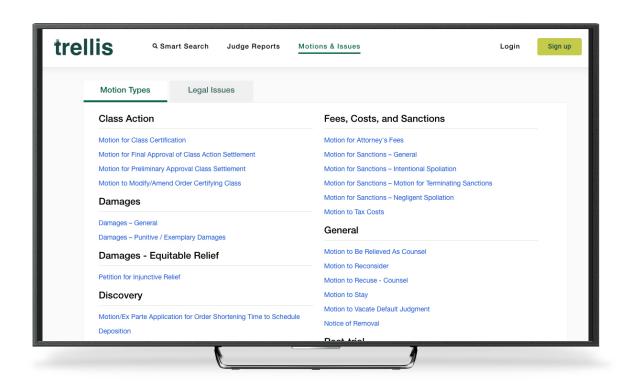


#### Section 2

# Draft Persuasive Motions, Faster

# Draft Stronger More Persuasive Motions, Faster

Trellis Motion & Issue™ Library:



- Quickly learn about various motions + see common examples of state court judges ruling on those motions.
- Quickly research and understand the legal threshold and elements of each claim.
- Use a prior ruling as an outline for your motion.







Need Help

Inbox Nicole ∨

#### What is products liability - express warranty?

"In order to plead a cause of action for breach of express warranty, one must allege:

- (1) the exact terms of the warranty,
- (2) plaintiff's reasonable reliance thereon, and
- (3) a breach of that warranty which proximately causes plaintiff injury."

Williams v. Beechnut Nutrition Corp. (1986) 185 Cal.App.3d 135, 142 (finding sufficient allegations that defendant utilized advertising media to urge the use of the product and expressly warranted that the product was effective, proper, and safe for its intended use); U. Com. Code, § 2313.

#### **Creation of Express Warranty**

"Section 2313, subdivision (1)(a) and (b) of the California Uniform Commercial Code provides that express warranties are created as follows:

Show More

#### **Potentially Relevant Documents**



#### Complaint

CASE NAME

CASE #

SANDOVAL, MARIA vs FORD MO...

CV-21-002460

COUNTY FILED DATE

May 11, 2021

JUDGE

Sandhu, Sonny S.

Stanislaus County, CA

#### 5.3.21 Carranza, Josie v. GM- Complaint - Civil Complaint filed

ME Josie Carranza vs. General Motor...

COUNTY FILED DATE Fresno County, CA May 03, 2021

JUDGE

McGuire, Rosemary

#### **Complaint - Case Management Conference**

21CECG01274



CASE NAME Tomsic, Christa vs American Hon...

CASE # 21CV01693

... COUNTY
FILED DATE

Butte County, CA

Dec 29, 2021

#### **Useful Examples**

#### Lyon vs. FAC US, LLC

Defendant CarMax Auto Superstores West Coast, Inc.'s demurrer to complaint is SUSTAINED in its entirety with 10 days leave to amend. A plaintiff pursuing an action under the Song-Beverly Act must plead and prove: "(1) the vehicle had a nonconformity covered by the express warranty that substantially impaired the use, value or safety of the vehicle (the nonconformity element); (2) the vehicle was p...

..rrantor, at a minimum, more than one opportunity to fix or repair the nonconformity. (Silvio v. Ford Motor Co. (2003) 109 Cal.App.4th 1205, 1207–1209.) Here, plaintiff alleges CarMax issued an express written warranty covering the "utility or performance" of the vehicle. (Complaint at p. 3, Il....

HEARING Feb 01, 2017

JUDGE James L. CRANDALL

COUNTY Orange County, CA

#### ALICIA GONZALEZ VS KIA MOTORS AMERICA INC

MOVING PARTY: Defendant Kia Motors America, Inc. OPPOSITION: Plaintiff Alicia Gonzalez On August 19, 2011, Plaintiff Alicia Gonzalez (Gonzalez) purchased a 2011 Kia Optima Hybrid vehicle, which was manufactured and distributed by Defendant Kia Motors America, Inc. (Kia). When Gonzalez purchased the vehicle, they received several warranties from Kia. Gonzalez alleges that there were several defec...

.. 4. Breach of Express Warranty, 5. Breach of Implied Warranty, 6. Fraud by Omission, and 7. Fraudulent Inducement. Kia has filed a demurrer as to the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh causes of action. Kia has also filed a motion to strike punitive damages from the FAC. Meet and Confer: The meet and confer requirement has been met. Gonzalez has submitted a declaration indicating meet...

HEARING May 10, 2019

JUDGE David Sotelo

COUNTY Los Angeles County, CA

James Perse Enterprises Inc. v. JustEngugh Software Corporation Inc.

#### **Recent Rulings on Negligent and Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress**

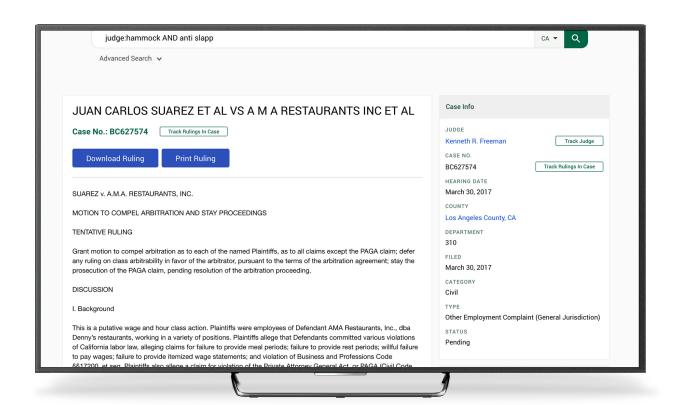
1-25 of 9136 results Sort By Newest to Oldest ▼ Reset All Type Judge County  $\vee$ JOSEPH ZALENSKI VS FLYING DANS INC On February 23, 2018, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint ("FAC"), asserting causes of action against Defendants and Does 1-20 for. Fraud Negligent Misrepresentation Conversion Retaliation in Violation of FEHA Wrongful Termination in Violation of Public Policy Violation of Labor Code § 226 Violation of Labor Code § 1198.5 Violation of Family Code § 5235 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress On January 25, 2019, Flying Dan's default was entered **HEARING** Nov 16, 2020 Gloria White-Brown JUDGE Los Angeles County, CA COUNTY GENERNAL LOGISTICS SYSTEM US, INC. VS ARNEL SINSAY, ET AL. The SAC asserts causes of action for Breach of Contract; Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing; Fraud and Concealment; Violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200; Negligence; Violation of Consumer Legal Remedies Act; and Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress. On February 15, 2019, Plaintiffs dismissed NGLS Insurance Services, Inc.; Newport Insurance Company; CW Insurance Group, LLC; and QBE Americas, Inc. with prejudice. Nov 06, 2020 HEARING Yolanda Orozco JUDGE TYPE Personal Injury/ Tort COUNTY Los Angeles County, CA SUB TYPE other

#### POPPINGTON, LLC, ET AL. VS ENTERTAINMENT ONE REALITY PRODUCTIONS, INC, ET AL.

The Complaint asserts causes of action for (1) breach of contract (written), (2) breach of contract (oral), (3) intentional infliction of emotional distress, (4) fraud, and (5) unlawful business practices. The Complaint alleges in pertinent part as follows. Defendants are co-producers and co-owners of the Adaptivity and the Use (Oracle). President and the Adaptivity and the Use (Oracle).



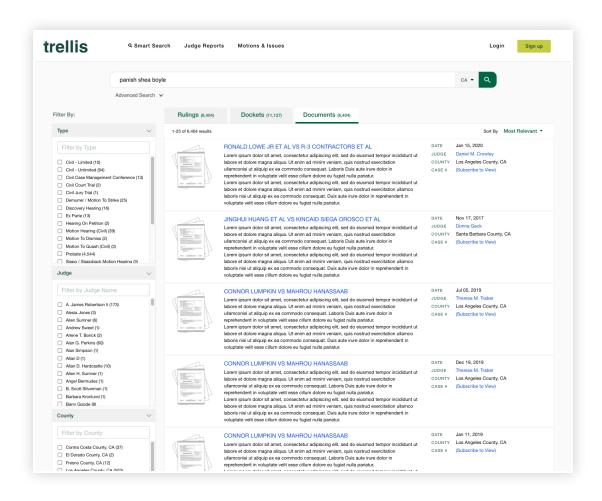
# Recent Rulings as Outlines for Motions



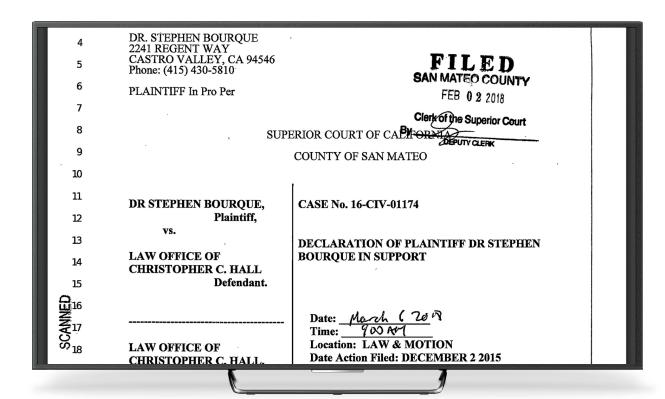
 Judge's Rulings on specific motions and/or legal issues create perfect outlines for motions, briefs, and replies

# Search the body & text of filed state trial court docs

Uncover information hidden within the text of filed documents



### Brief Bank: +90M Filed Documents as Outlines



- Largest "Brief Bank" of searchable state court docs
- Find "granted" motions
- Search moving papers in cases with similar facts
- See how other attorneys organized complex arguments in similar cases

# Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support - OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, ETC.

Case: STEPHEN BOURQUE vs. CHRISTOPHER C. HALL

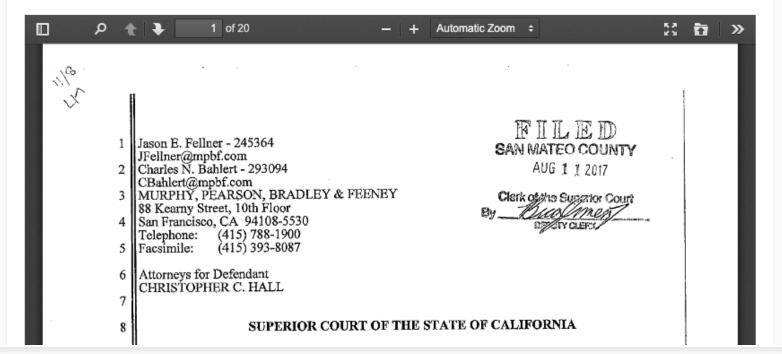
Track Rulings For This Case

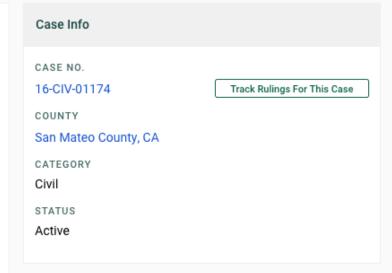
**Download Document** 

**Print Document** 

#### **Case Overview**

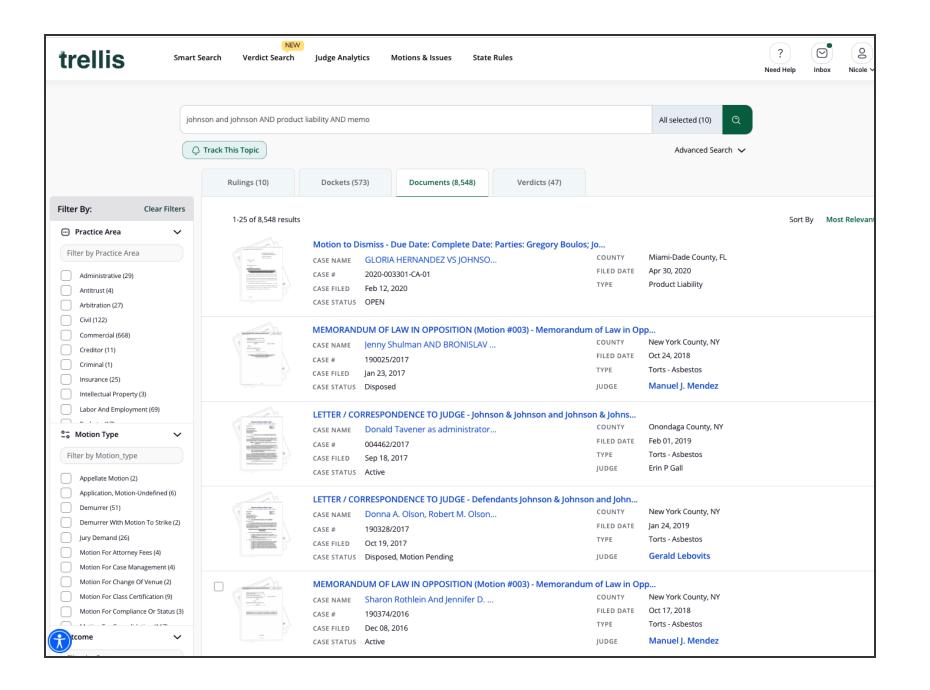
On August 23, 2016 a (25) Unlimited Professional Negligence case was filed by Stephen Bourque, represented by Pro Se, in the jurisdiction of San Mateo County.





Parties	
Stephen Bourque, Plaintiff	Track Party
Pro Se, Attorney For Plaintiff	Track Party
Stephen Bourque, Cross Defendant (Participant)	Track Party
Pro Se, Attorney For Cross Defendant (Participant)	Track Party
Does 1 - 10 Cross Defendant (Particinant)	Track Party

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# MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT (Motion #002) - Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Approval of Class Action Settlement

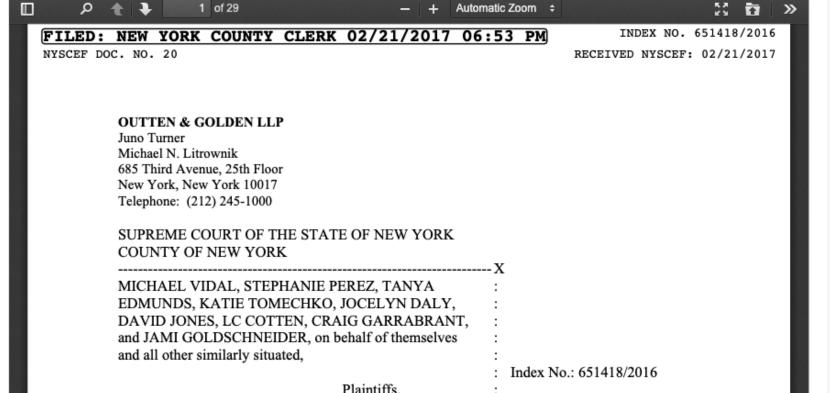
Case: Michael Vidal, Stephanie Perez, Tanya Edmunds, Katie Tomechko, Jocelyn Daly, David Jones, Lc Cotten, Craig Garrabrant, Jami Goldschneider v. Shake Shack Enterprises, Llc

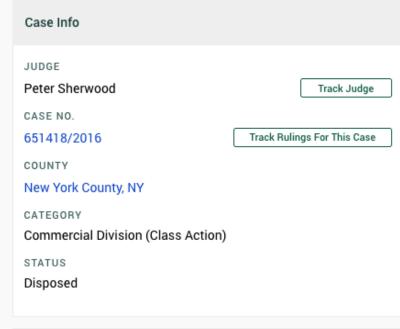
**Download Document** 

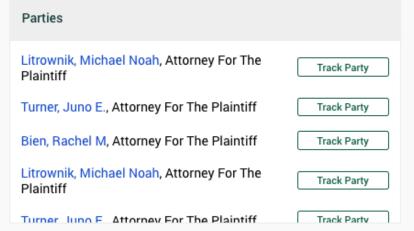
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#### **Case Overview**

On March 17, 2016 a Commercial Division (Class Action) case was filed by Katie Tomechko, Tanya Edmunds, Stephanie Perez et al. against Shake Shack Enterprises, Llc, in the jurisdiction of New York County. Judge Peter Sherwood presiding.



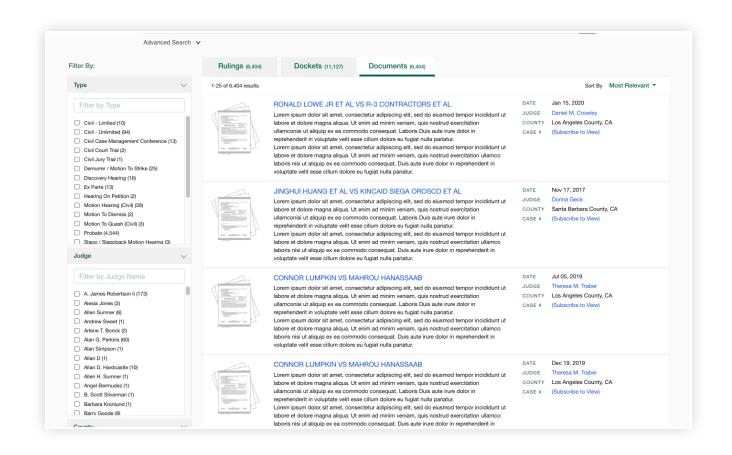




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# Searching Filed Documents - Getting Strategic

- Search Filed Documents by:
  - Legal Issue +
  - Motion Type +
  - Outcome +
  - Judge +
  - Case type +
  - (mix & match)



# Filed Documents - by Judge

- Review motions filed in cases where the judge is presiding
- Gain perspective on pet peeves and ruling tendencies.
   How have they ruled on similar motions?
- Use successful motions filed before the judge as outline for drafting persuasive, tailored motions

 $\vee$ 



#### Advanced Search >

Filter By:

Type

Filter by Type

Limited Civil Collection Rule 3.740 (16)

Limited Civil Pi/Pd/Wd (Other) (20)

Unlimited Civil - Civil Rights (19)

Unlimited Civil Breach Of Contract (40)

Unlimited Civil Business Tort/ Unfair Business Practice (1)

Unlimited Civil Defamation (12)

Unlimited Civil Fraud (45)

Unlimited Civil Medical Malpractice (1)

Unlimited Civil Miscellaneous Complaint -Other (39)

Unlimited Civil Miscellaneous Petition -Other (2)

Unlimited Civil Non-Pi/Pd/Wd (Other) Tort (1)

Judge

County

Filter by Judge Name

Barbara Kronlund (233)

Rulings (7)

Dockets (52)

Documents (233)

1-25 of 233 results

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO COMPEL ARBITRATION FILED BY BRINKER RESTAURANT ...

[Proposed] Order Granting Defendant's Motion to Compel Arbitration\*, es Co Oe NDA HW FF Ww NY voy mw oy moe BNRRRRBBEBSSEReRURFAEBRELS After full consideration of the moving and opposing papers, authorities and arguments by the parties, all other papers and pleadings in this matter, and good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant's Motion to Compel Arbitration is GRANTED. 64 Plaintiff must pursue her claims in binding arbitration and the case is stayed pending outcome of any such

DATE

Jan 24, 2018

Sort By Most Relevant ▼

Barbara Kronlund **JUDGE** 

San Joaquin County, CA COUNTY

STK-CV-UCR-2017-CASE #

0008067



MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO COMPEL A...

Mit Hit Mid Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Opposition to Motion to Compel Arbitration 5So G6 me N AUN BR WN NN NY NY NY NY NK NS He ew ee ew ee mY AA FF YBNH = SHOWA DAH RW DY = CONCLUSION For all the reasons stated above, plaintiff requests denial of defendant's motion to compel arbitration. DATED: January 9, 2018 WILLIAM F.

DATE

Jan 11, 2018

JUDGE Barbara Kronlund

COUNTY

San Joaquin County, CA

CASE #

STK-CV-UCR-2017-

0008067



DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF RAMON ALAN IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO COMPEL AR...

.: STK-CV-UBC-2018-0004024 DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF RAMON ALAN IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO COMPEL ARBITRATION Date: June 28, 2019 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept: 10D Judge: Hon. Barbara Kronlund Complaint filed: 4/6/18 1 DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF RAMON ALAN IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO COMPEL ARBITRATION6/5/2019 3:41 PH FROH: Staples TO: +18562718908 =P.

DATE JUDGE Jun 06, 2019

Barbara Kronlund

COUNTY

San Joaquin County, CA

CASE #

STK-CV-UBC-2018-

0004024

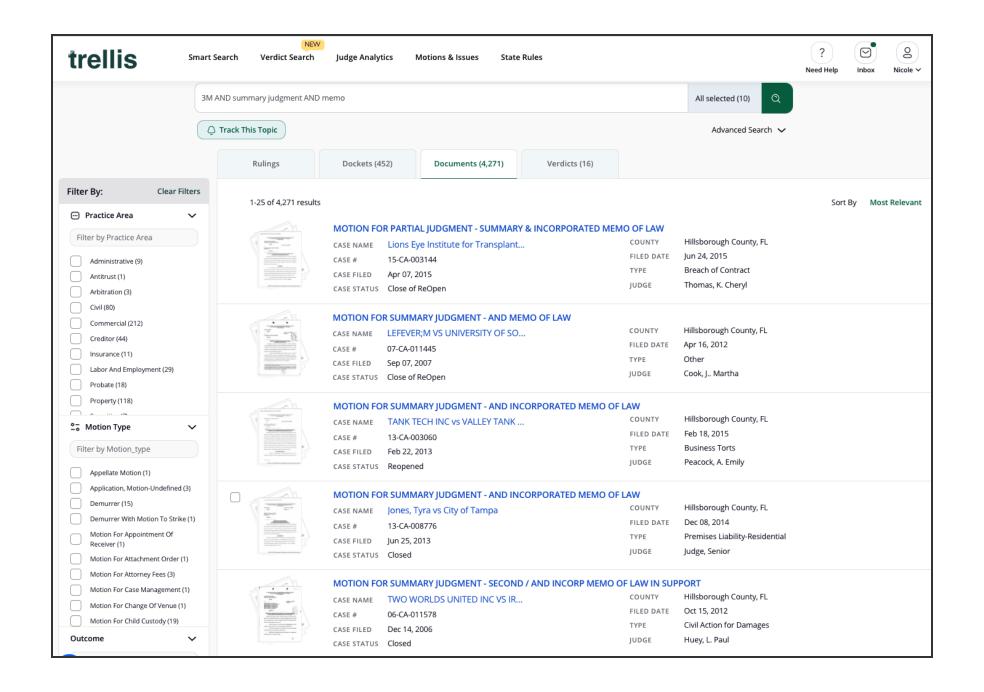
Jun 06,

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DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF NELIA TORRES IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO COMPEL DATE

# Filed Documents - by Party

- Facing litigation with (or for) a major corporation?
- Representing new, large client?
- Gain hidden insights by pulling their previously filed docs
- See how former counsel litigated the cases



#### Answer - TO CROSS-COMPLAINT OF BEST BUY CO., INC.

Case: GILBERT RAMIREZ vs. JBC DELIVERIES CORP., et al

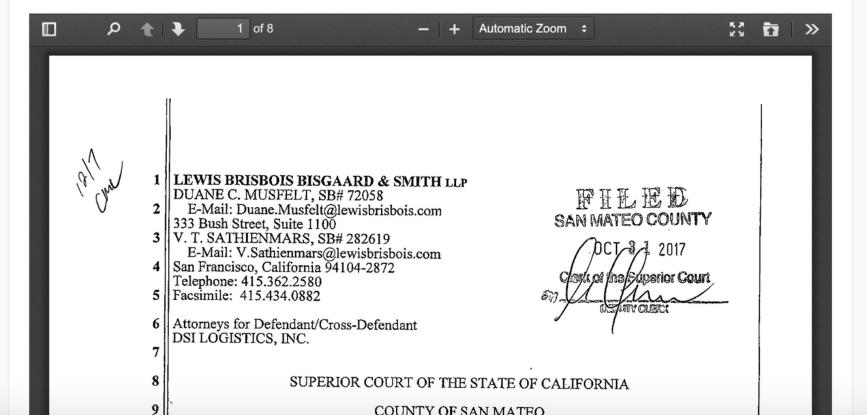
Track Rulings For This Case

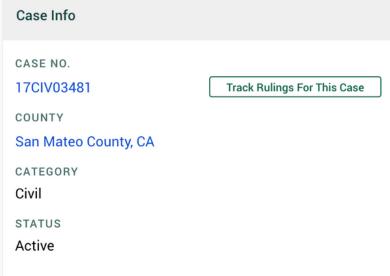
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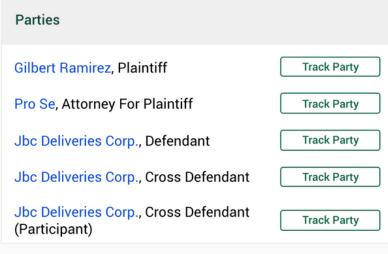
**Print Document** 

#### **Case Overview**

On August 1, 2017 a (26) Unlimited Other Real Property case was filed by Gilbert Ramirez, represented by Pro Se, against Jbc Deliveries Corp., and Does 1 To 3, in the jurisdiction of San Mateo County.







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Section 3

# Case Valuation & Verdict Data

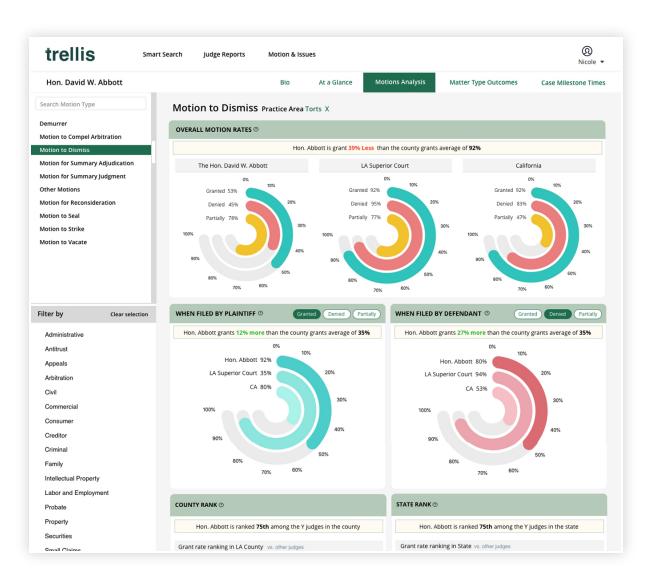
# Google Search Verdicts on Trellis

Dive into verdict research across state trial court cases:



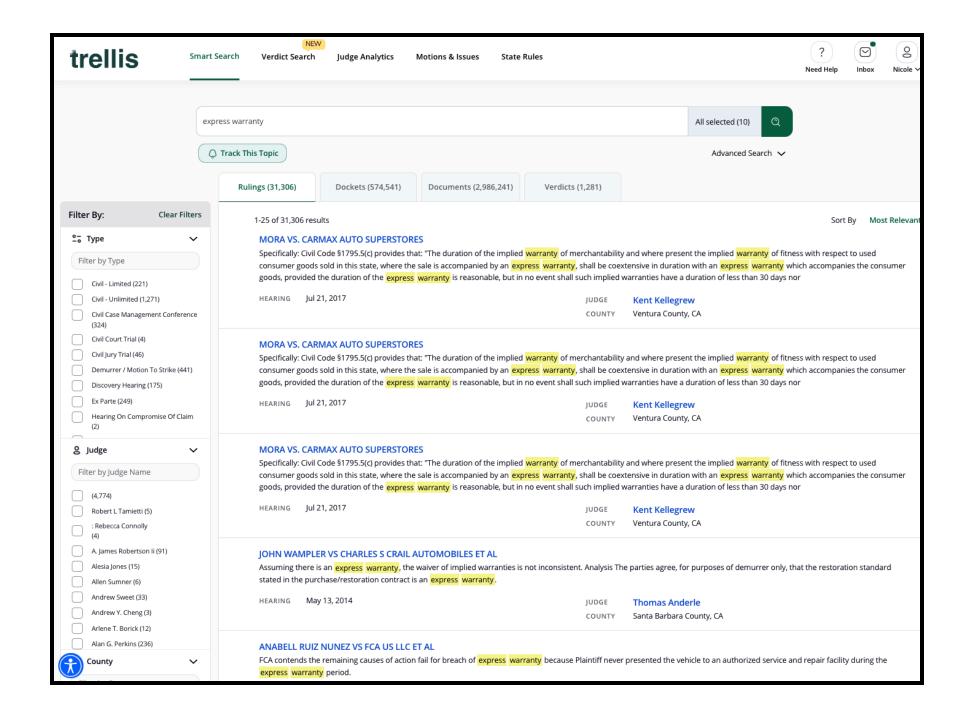
- Tens of thousands of detailed state trial court verdicts, updated weekly
- Verdict visualizations by case type (or injury)
- Dig deeper on millions of related verdicts

# Let's Dive In



#### Section 2

# Strategic State Court Research + Alerts



trellis

Smart Search

Verdict Search

Judge Analytics

Motions & Issues

State Rules









Need Help

(→) Download Ruling





NEW



**Edit Ruling** 

Plaintiff purchased the 2011 Jeep Patriot used in 21,788 miles from Alhambra Chrysler Jeep Dodge on or about October 30, 2013. (Complaint ¶7.)

#### Express Warranty

Plaintiff's first, second, third and fourth causes of action allege various breaches of express warranty. FCA contends its Basic Limited Warranty provided coverage for the earlier of three years or 36,000 miles and its Powertrain Limited Warranty covered specific components for the earlier of 5 years or 100,000 miles. FCA contends the basic warranty expired on December 31, 2013, and Plaintiff did not bring her vehicle in for routine maintenance until February 26, 2014, thus Plaintiff did not present the vehicle to an FCA dealership while the basic warranty was still in effect. FCA also contends that the limited powertrain warranty expired on December 31, 2015 and Plaintiff did not present the 2011 Patriot to an FCA dealership for a repair covered by the powertrain warranty. (McDowell Decl. ¶3, 8, Exh. B.)

FCA contends the first time Plaintiff presented the vehicle for repairs was on May 6, 2015. FCA contends they were not given at least two attempts to repair the warrantable defect because Plaintiffs vehicle was never presented for a warrantable defect. (See Silvio v. Ford Motor Co. (2003) 109 Cal.App.4th 1205, 1209.) FCA contends the remaining causes of action fail for breach of express warranty because Plaintiff never presented the vehicle to an authorized service and repair facility during the express warranty period.

In opposition, Plaintiff contends the following triable issues of material fact remain including whether: (1) FCA sold the subject vehicle to Plaintiff with multiple warranties, including a Federal Emission Warranty which has not yet expired, (2) the Federal Emission Warranty covers the defects Plaintiff alleges; (4) Plaintiff took vehicle to Defendants' dealership for repairs for at least four times during the warranty period; (5) during the repairs the dealership attributed the problems Plaintiff was experiencing to warrantable parts. (Nunez Decl. ¶5; ¶8-11; Exh. 4, 6, 8, 10.)

Plaintiff contends a third express warranty is applicable to the car, namely there is an 8-year/80,000 mile Federal Emission Warranty which expressly covers the Subject Vehicle's powertrain control module ("PCM"). (Nunez Decl. ¶8, Exh. 4; Scott Del. ¶4-5; Exh. 1, 2 at 23) Plaintiff contends the warranty is valid until December 31, 2018 and between June 20, 2016 and March 28, 2017, Plaintiff took her vehicle to Defendant's authorized dealership four times for PCM repairs. (Nunez Decl. ¶8-11) Plaintiff further evidences that Defendant paid for the October 17, 2016 PCM replacement under the Federal Emission Warranty. (Scott Decl. ¶8, Exh. 5.)

Plaintiff further argues that even if the Federal Emission Warranty did not apply, under Cal. Civ. Code 1793.1(a)(2), if a defect exists within the warranty period, the warranty will not expire until the defect has been fixed. Plaintiff contends the prior owner of the Vehicle sought repairs for PCM problems (Scott Decl. ¶¶6, 7, Exh. 3, 4.) and FCA covered the repairs under warranty thus the PCM defects existed and have not been fixed. (Nunez Decl. ¶12.)

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that triable issues of material fact remain as to whether the Vehicle had a third express warranty and whether Plaintiff provided the vehicle for repair during the warranty period. As such, the Defendant's motion for summary adjudication as to the express warranty causes of action is DENIED.

Implied Warranty

GATES O'DOHERTY GONTER &...

Attorney for Defendant/R...

NUNEZ ANABELL RUIZ

Plaintiff/Petitioner

STRATEGIC LEGAL PRACTICE...

Attorney for Plaintiff/P...

Track This Party

Track This Party

Track This Party

Other rulings by Hon. Daniel S. Murphy

Luis Ayala Vs General Motors, Llc

F. Ajegbo Vs Gwendolyn Ostrosky, Et Al.

Nap Holdings, Llc, A Delaware Limited Liability Company, Vs China Electronics, Inc., A California Corporation,

Benjamin Lee, Et Al. Vs Ricardo Arias

Kajima Development Corporation Vs Jennifer Pai

Robert Ware Vs City Of Long Beach, A California Public Entity

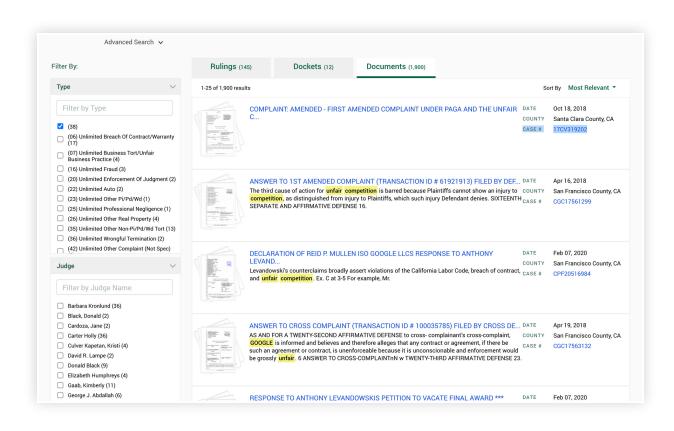
Jj Packaging, Inc. A California Corporation Vs Sarah H. Yu

Omid Okhowat Vs Jaguar Land Rover North America, Llc

Law Offices Of Ionathan Pakravan, Anld Vs Sharon Kashfian

## Strategic Research

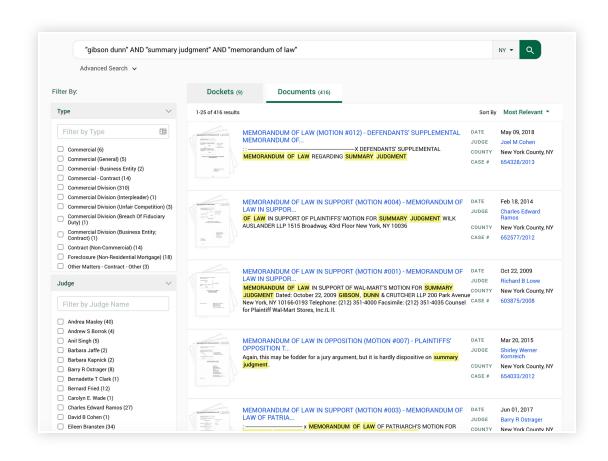
Uncover information hidden within the text of rulings & filed documents



- Expert Testimony
- Jury Instructions
- Motions to Disqualify
- Good Faith Settlements

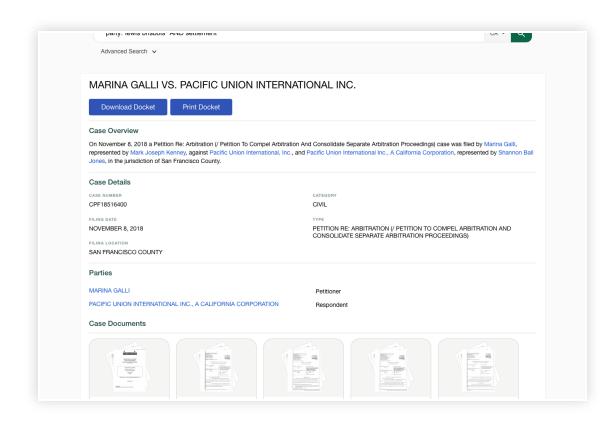
#### Research Opp Co's Prior Motions

- Search motions/briefs filed by opposing counsel
- Gain insights into how they position specific issues in the past
- Draft sections of the Reply before opposing counsel has even filed their moving papers



## Strategic Intel on Opposing Counsel

Competitive intelligence on opposing counsel



- How many cases do they have pending?
- How often do they take cases to trial?
- Do they tend to settle cases after MSJ?

trellis

Smart Search

Verdict Search

NEW

Judge Analytics

Motions & Issues

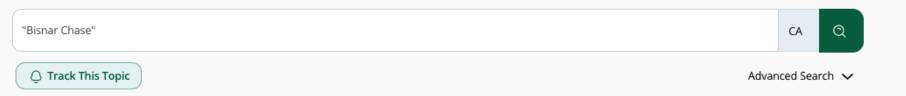
State Rules





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1-25 of 36 results Sort By Most Relevant

#### OLGA HINOJOSA VS BENJAMIN THOMAS CONWAY ET AL

The court's file also reflects that Bisnar & Chase and Avrek Law Firm filed a Notice of Association of Counsel on 1/22/19, but did not serve it on counsel for Defendant Conway, Law Offices of Santa Cruz, Brownwood & Cannon. As a result, Bisnar & Chase were not served with the discovery at issue or the Defendant's Motion for Terminating Sanctions. The Avrek Law Firm was under the mistaken impression that Bisnar & Chase were responding to discovery. Parman Declaration ¶ 10.

HEARING Aug 26, 2019 JUDGE Georgina Torres Rizk

COUNTY Los Angeles County, CA

#### OLGA HINOJOSA VS BENJAMIN THOMAS CONWAY ET AL

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HEARING Aug 26, 2019 JUDGE Georgina Torres Rizk

COUNTY Los Angeles County, CA

#### GAYTAN VS. BENAVENTE

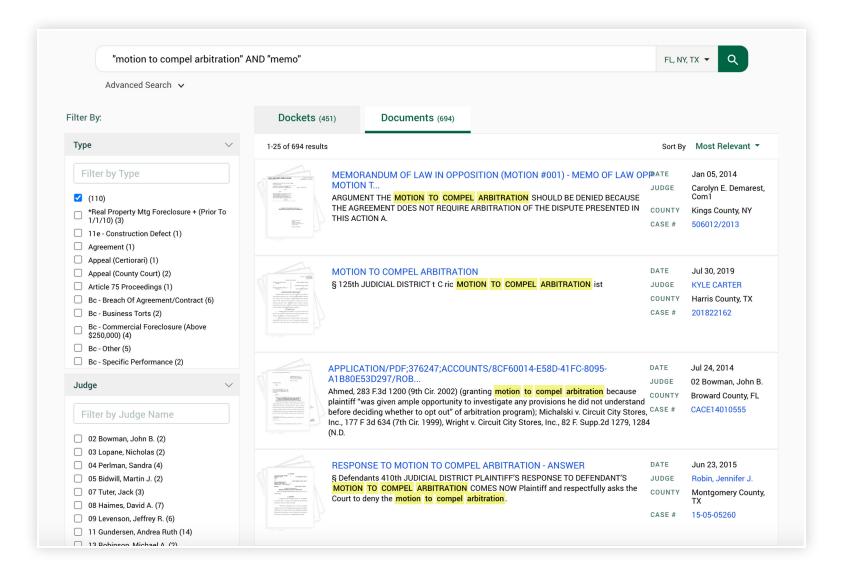
1) Motion to be Relieved as Counsel of Record Motion of Law Office of Bisnar Chase, by Tom Antunovich, to be relieved as counsel of record for plaintiff Raul Gayton is granted. The Court will sign the proposed order, which will become effective upon filing of a proof of service of the order. 2) Case Management Conference – Parties to Appear

HEARING Aug 15, 2016 JUDGE Martha K. GOODING

COUNTY Orange County, CA

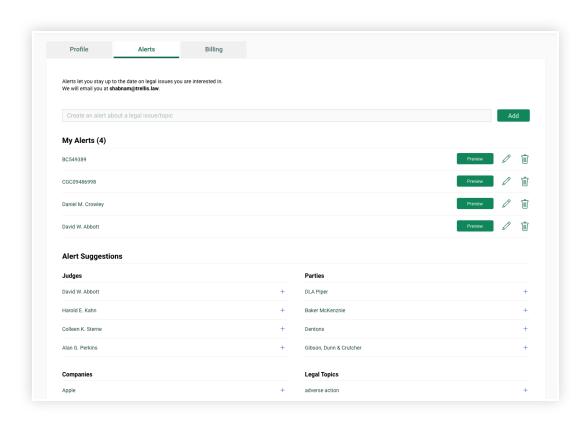
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#### Search Across Counties/States

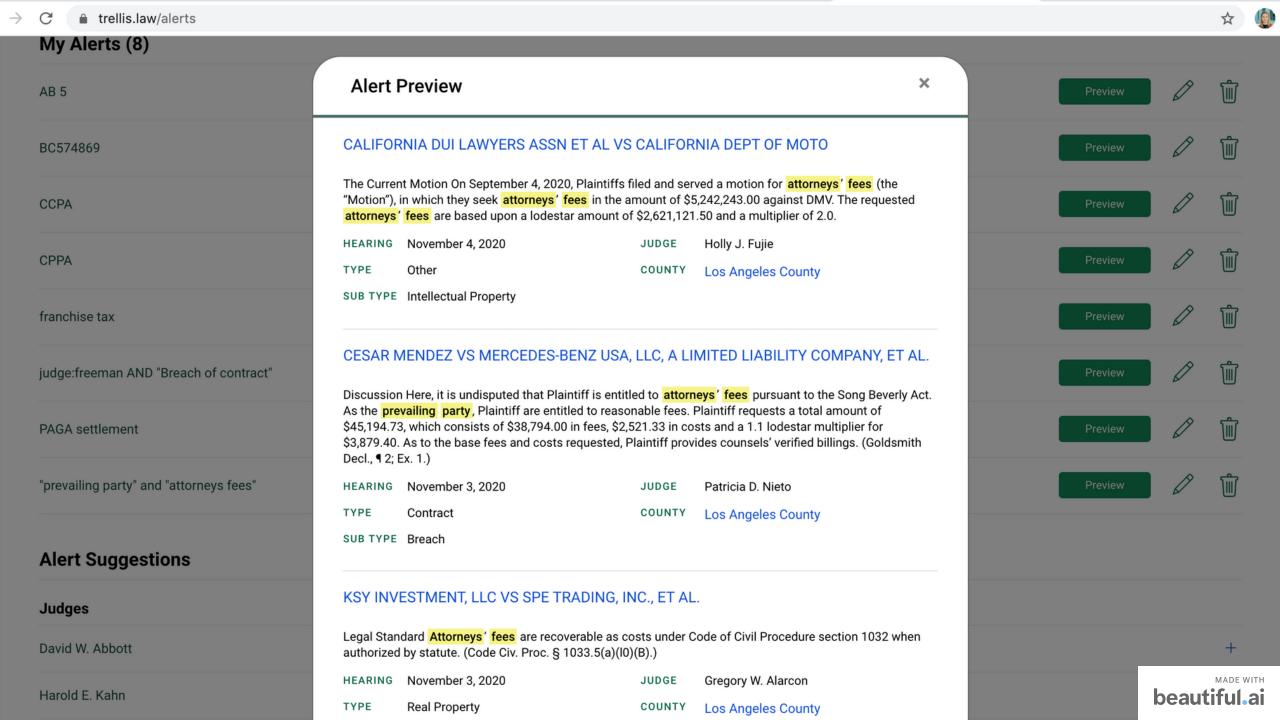


#### **Alerts**

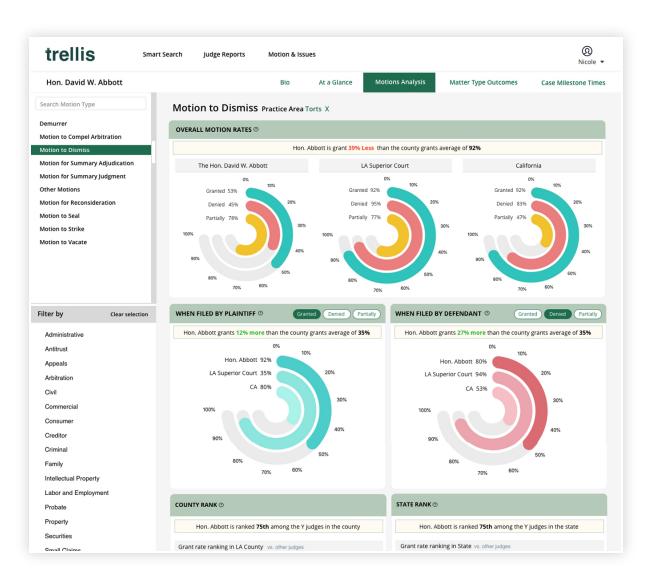
Set Alerts: Be an Expert



- Clients
- Legal Issues
- Novel Cases
- New Legislation



## Let's Dive In



#### Section 4

# Professional Responsibility & Technology

#### View from the ABA: Technology Duties & Ethics

#### ATTORNEY DUTY

- Competence
- Confidentiality
- Supervise
- Communicate
- Ethics Opinion

#### **ABA MODEL RULES**

- 1.1
- 1.6
- 5.3
- 4.1
- Formal Opinion 477

## ABA Model Rule 1.1 [8] - Duty of Competence

#### **Attorney Duty**

[8] To maintain the requisite knowledge and skills, a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practices, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology, engage in continuing study and education and comply with all continuing legal education requirements to which the lawyer is subject.

\*\*Clear attorney duty of competence relating to tech added in 2012 Amendments\*\*

#### ABA Model Rule 1.6 - Duty of Confidentiality

- (a) A lawyer should not reveal information related to the representation of a client, unless the client gives informed consent, the disclosure is impliedly authorized in order to carry out the representation.....
- (c) A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to prevent inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of, or unauthorized access to, info related to the representation of the client.
- \*\*(c) added in 2012 Amendments 'reasonable efforts' is the attorney duty relating to preventing inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of technology matters to preserve confidentiality\*\*

#### Model Rule 1.6 [18] - Confidentiality

Acting Competently To Preserve Confidentiality

[18] Paragraph (c) requires a lawyer to act competently to safeguard information relating to the representation of a client against:

- unauthorized access by third parties; and
- inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure by the lawyer; or

## Model Rule 1.6 [18] - Confidentiality CONTINUED

• inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure by other persons who are participating in the representation of the client or who are subject to the lawyer's supervision. See Rules 1.1, 5.1 and 5.3.

\*\*Confidentiality duty includes 3rd party helping attorney and extends to all technology related matters and communications\*\*

**Discussion Question:** How should this duty be applied to client communications made while travelling or remote via Zoom? Is it okay to communicate via open wi-fi?

#### Model Rule 1.6 [18] Confidentiality - CONTINUED

[18] ....inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of information relating to the representation of a client does not constitute a violation if the lawyer has made reasonable efforts to prevent the access or disclosure.

Factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of the lawyer's efforts include, but are not limited to:

## Model Rule 1.6 [18] Confidentiality - CONTINUED

- the sensitivity of the information
- the likelihood of disclosure if additional safeguards are not employed
- the cost of employing additional safeguards
- the difficulty of implementing the safeguards
- the extent to which the safeguards adversely affect the lawyer's ability to represent client's (e.g. by making a device or important piece of software excessively difficult to use)

\*Above are the factors to consider when determining whether firm' efforts to avoid disclosure or to safeguard confidentiality of technology info is reasonable or not, and thus permitted or not.\*\*

#### Model Rule 5.3 - Duty to Supervise

Responsibilities Regarding Nonlawyer Assistance

(a) a partner, and a lawyer who individually or together with other lawyers possesses comparable managerial authority in a law firm shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm has in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer;

## ABA Model Rule 1.1 [8] - Duty of Competence

#### **Attorney Duty**

[8] To maintain the requisite knowledge and skills, a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practices, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology, engage in continuing study and education and comply with all continuing legal education requirements to which the lawyer is subject.

\*\*Clear attorney duty of competence relating to tech added in 2012 Amendments\*\*

#### Model Rule 5.3 [3] - Duty to Supervise

Supervision Of Lawyers Outside The Firm

3] A lawyer may use nonlawyers outside the firm to assist the lawyer in rendering legal services to the client. When using such service outside the firm, a lawyer must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the services are provided in a manner that is compatible with the lawyer's professional obligations. The extent of this obligation depends on the circumstances, including:

## Model Rule 5.3 [3] - Duty to Supervise - CONT'D

- education, experience and reputation of the nonlawyer
- the nature of the services involved
- terms of any arrangements concerning the protection of client information, and
- the legal and ethical environments of the jurisdictions in which the services will be performed, particularly with regard to confidentiality."

\*\*When an attorney engages and supervises nonlawyers outside of their firm on technology-related matters, the attorney must make sure the services being provided are consistent with their professional ethics and must make special efforts to preserve

#### Model Rule 4.1 - Duty to Communicate

Communications (a) A Lawyer shall:

- 1 promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent...;
- reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;
- 3 keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter

\*\*This ABA Rule bleed into Duties to Convey Settlement Offers and to Disclose Liability Insurance\*\*

#### **ABA Formal Opinion 477**

Securing Communication of Protected Client Information

"A lawyer generally may transmit information relating to the representation of a client over the internet without violating the Model Rules of Professional Conduct where the lawyer has undertaken reasonable efforts to prevent inadvertent or unauthorized access. However a lawyer may be required to take special security precautions to protect against the inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of client information when required by an agreement with the client or by law or when the nature of the information requires a higher degree of security.

#### ABA Formal Opinion 477 - CONTINUED

\*\*Attorney duty of communication to clients is maintained when an attorney takes reasonable efforts to prevent improper access to it, and if needed, takes special precautions.\*\*

**Discussion Question:** A lawyer should take reasonable steps to make computer systems more secure and limit the vulnerabilities. When communicating with clients what are some of the areas your firm has implemented here to protect confidentiality?

#### What is Delaware doing?

- Delaware adopted the aforementioned ABA technology competency rules as many states have.
  - Delaware approved changes to its rules to include technology competence on January 15, 2013, effective March 1, 2013.
  - Amended Comment 8 to Rule 1.1 of the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct states: "a lawyer should keep abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology...."

Section 5

# Legal Ethics Obligations During Covid-19

- Although the pandemic is having a palpable effect on how attorneys are practicing, it's important to realize that the [ABA] Rules of Professional Conduct (the "Rules") and the duties they set forth are not suspended.
- At all times, and same goes for other professional responsibility duties, an attorney should perform legal services with "competence," defined in Rule 1.1 as "the (i) learning and skill, and (ii) mental, emotional, and physical ability reasonably necessary for the performance of [required legal] service."

- Covid-19 related personal issues such as family health concerns, lack of child care, school closures, or other responsibilities normally would not excuse an attorney's duty of competence to their client. Attorneys are expected to put client interests ahead of their own personal interests or issues.
  - See Smith v. State Bar (1987) 43 C3d 525 ("even in the face of serious personal problems, an attorney has a professional responsibility to fulfill his duties to his clients or to make appropriate arrangements to protect his client's interests.").
  - Even amidst a crisis, attorneys are bound by their ethical obligations and must protect their clients' interests. (See ABA Special Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness (February 12, 2011), and note Model Rule 1.1, Comment [3]

- During Covid 19 attorneys must continue to competently and diligently represent clients, communicate relevant information, keep client confidential information safe, adhere to court issued filing deadlines, fulfill fiduciary duties and appear remotely for court appearances.
- Law firms should have business continuity plans (BCPs) in place that spell out just how the firm will be providing critical business operations during or in the aftermath of a disaster.

The ABA Special Committee advises that law firms take the following steps in the event of an emergency:

- Prepare internal/external messaging regarding the firm's ability to operate;
- Work with records management to ensure that incoming docs are being stored securely and that records are accessible as needed;
- Confirm that attorneys are performing analyses to identify and prioritize urgent matters, including docketing litigation deadlines and court appearances; and
- Identify firm leadership responsible to respond to q's re: essential firm function

Section 6

# Professional Responsibilities & Working Remotely

## Professional Responsibilities Working Remotely

Best practices for legal teams to take when working remotely during the current Covid-19 crisis to meet legal ethics obligations include -

- Keep your laptop, computer or tablet charged and available
- To make sure you don't miss any client-related or filing deadlines, keep good track of your calendar and
- Be mindful of court, agency and other closures or limitations, and how they may impact your ability to comply while working remotely.

## Professional Responsibilities Working Remotely

- Ensure that you have the ability to access to necessary client files and other client-related data when working remotely and in your office staff is not available to assist
- Make sure that your means of remote access is sufficiently protected against potential hacking and other cyberattacks (e.g., by use of a secure private network or VPN)
- Think about ways to have incoming hard-copy mail rerouted or scanned and / or electronically delivered
- Make sure your clients know how to reach you by email/phone, so they and essential staff have a good way to reach you while working remotely.

#### **ABA Tech Tips For Remote Hearings & Trials**

Equipment

- Audio and Video: Participants, including parties and witnesses, have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone. The device employed by a participant must have a functioning camera, speaker, and microphone.
- Connectivity: Participants must know and understand the court's system requirements. Participants should test the device he/she intends to use on the court's system prior to the hearing.

#### **ABA Tech Tips For Remote Hearings & Trials**

Equipment

 System Specifications: Participants need access the court's website to locate specific instructions, the court's video system's tech requirements, and other relevant info. These sites will identify the specific video conferencing app, provide participants w/ instructions on how to download the app, and provide instructions on how to access and use.

Equipment

 Secondary Devices. Participants, especially counsel, have multiple devices available, so one device can access documents and another can handle the video.

Preparation

- Make sure he or she has received the remote video hearing invite.
- Make sure any participants who need to be part of the hearing (i.e., witnesses or clients) have received the invite so they can join the hearing.
- Test equipment ahead of the hearing and ensure that the equipment of any clients or other participants, including witnesses, has been tested.

**Exhibits** 

- Have all exhibits and other documents counsel intends to use as part of the hearing uploaded and available on the court's video app share function prior to commencement of the hearing.
- Send all exhibits separately in PDF format to the court and opposing counsel prior to the hearing. Counsel should check local court rules for timing requirements.

**Exhibits** 

- Use the available "share function" in the video app as a backup for showing exhibits.
- Be ready to share "rebuttal" or "impeachment" exhibits during the hearing. The share function on the video app and/or sending them separately are both viable options.

Camera Use

- Plan to participate in the hearing in a quiet place, and be aware of your surroundings. Other hearing participants will have a clear view of the contents of your video frame, including items around or behind you.
- Ensure proper lighting. Too much lighting from behind or above can cause a participant to look washed out. It is best to have lighting behind the video device that projects directly on your face.

Camera Use

- Place the camera at eye level or slightly above.
- No one else should be in the room with you without notice and approval of the court.
- If multiple persons are in one room, consider separately logging in to eliminate issues with respect to visibility of participants.

Camera Use

- \* Sit or stand during the hearing. Do not move around the room during the hearing.
- \* Run the remote video app on only one device. Other internet connections and apps should be turned off, as they can interfere with the effectiveness of the remote video app.

Special Rules

- \* ID all persons on the video conference or in the video conferencing space.
- \* No private communications (i.e., phone, text, or email) with witnesses during a witness's testimony.
- \* Do not record the hearing or conference. Only the court is allowed to record.
- \* Do not have more than one participant in the same room with separate video apps open. This will cause an echo or other audio-related issues.

Etiquette

- \* Dress as you would if making a physical appearance in court.
- \* Avoid busy clothing patterns or narrow stripes. These items can create distracting images.
- \* Be especially careful of talking over the judge, other counsel, or witnesses.
- \* This is a significant problem w/ remote video hearings, as the audio capability of video apps typically cannot handle more than one speaker at a time.

Etiquette

- \* Pause before speaking.
- \* Identify yourself when beginning to speak and after others have finished speaking.
- \* Look directly into your camera when speaking or questioning..
- \* Be slow and deliberate in your presentation and questioning.

Witnesses And Exhibits

- \* Witnesses will need to identify where they are physically located and verify that they are alone in the video conferencing space.
- \* If a witness is participating in an attorney's office, the witness should be placed in separate room to avoid audio-related issues.
- \* Be sure the witnesses have been sent all pertinent exhibits/documents ahead of time so they have them readily available.

Witnesses And Exhibits

- \* Be familiar with the local court rule on remote swearing-in of witnesses. Many jurisdictions have passed new laws or rules that apply when the court official and the witnesses are not in the same physical space.
- \* Make sure witnesses can access the video conference and exhibits. Don't leave them out of the education process on how to be involved in remote video hearings.

**Evidence - Direct Examination** 

- \* Regular rules apply but be mindful of the difficulties created by the examining lawyer and witness not being in the same physical space.
- \* Examine in a slower manner, and ask more deliberate questions.
- \* Use exhibits wherever possible to keep the witness on track.
- \* Be careful about interrupting the witness.

**Evidence - Cross Examination** 

- \* Know his/her purpose and goals for the cross-examination.
- \* Ask well-thought-out, short, leading questions that will elicit an admission of one fact per question.
- \* Liberally use documents to force the witness to admit key facts.

**Evidence - Cross Examination** 

- \* Listen to the witness's answers for appropriate follow up.
- \* Try not to allow the witness to repeat direct testimony or explain answers. It is very difficult to control the remote witness without good, short, one-fact questions.

Section 7

# BYOD Security Practices & Takeaways

#### **BYOD Security Practices and Takeaways**

When using personal devices and networks to manage sensitive or confidential information, at a minimum, "reasonable efforts" to address data breach or cyberattack risks must include:

- Installing basic cybersecurity systems like anti-virus software, encryption, VPNs, firewalls, and the like on your firm's computer system.
- Comprehensive system assessment; cyber awareness training for employees, including proper email etiquette and how to avoid infected websites; and sporadic testing of employees.

#### **BYOD Security Practices and Takeaways**

 Law firms should conduct some simple and basic due diligence of its vendors who may be hosting their clients' data to ensure they have adequate security systems, training, and testing in place

Most client sensitive or confidential information breaches by law firms using personal devices are not the result of technological shortcomings, but instead are the result of user error or lack of training.

#### Tech to Support Professional Responsibilities

Important Considerations

- Leverage solutions that support automation of certain functions
  - Popular choice is automating Legal Analytics -- ALM's 2020 Legal Analytics Survey found 90% of users say Legal Analytics make them a better, more informed, more efficient and effective lawyer.
- Test and adjust processes periodically to improve efficiencies

#### Tech & Professional Responsibilities - CONT

Important Considerations

- Implement solutions that enable the research and sharing of data across the enterprise
- Adopt solutions with users in mind and establish feedback points
- Search, audit and reporting across solutions

#### **Office Best Practices**

- Form interdisciplinary team to proactively address potential legaltech issues
  - Legal, Team IT and Records management personnel
  - Other professionals as necessary (Compliance, Audit etc.)
- Engage IT department for targeted programs and solutions
  - Focus on: network/server security, password permissions, access rights, technology vulnerabilities, cloud computing & due diligence with vendors
  - Designation of legaltech liaisons

#### Office Best Practices- CONTINUED

- Investment in the right technology to maximize legal intelligence
  - Legal research
  - Digital forensics
  - eDiscovery
  - Judicial analytics
  - Computer system security
  - Opposing counsel intelligence
  - State court record search



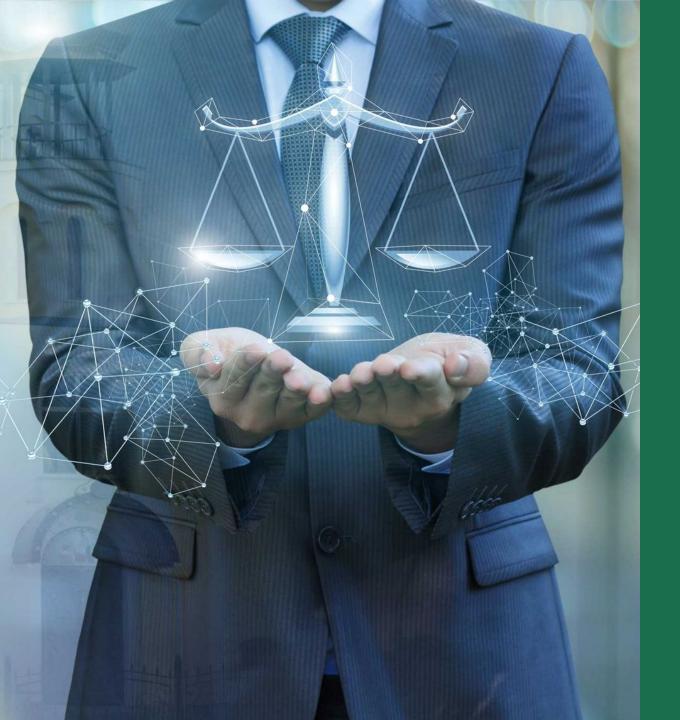
### Q & A

Nicole Clark, CEO

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- (213) 999 9843

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