



Santa Fe Speakers

David Chamberlain & Guy Choate – Austin and San Angelo

David and Guy will give their annual summary of what the Texas Legislature did to the Civil Justice System. Guy will discuss the effective use of the Ten Commands in challenging jurors for cause.

David will show how the Sermon on the Mount can be used to justify double billing.

Jennifer Doan – Texarkana

Her Majesty* will fill us in on the status of ongoing negotiations to sell ABOTA to Elon Musk.

** Ms. Doan's first executive order after being sworn in as National President of ABOTA was to require that all members use that title when referring to her.*

Joe Fried – Atlanta, GA

Joe is a plaintiff's lawyer who has developed an efficient and effective method to try major cases quickly. For example, Joe obtained a \$25 million verdict in a case where the testimony took only 1 day and 2 hours. He received a jury award of \$20 million with 1 day and 30 minutes of trial testimony. With the short attention span of today's jurors, Joe's presentation will present time saving suggestions that can be used effectively for both sides

David Gerger – Houston

After 346 passengers died in two Boeing 737 crashes, Boeing and the Federal government settled on David's client, a Boeing engineer, to be the scapegoat. Prior to trial, prosecutors dumped 15 million documents on David's team. Relying on two exhibits, one witness, and brilliant cross examinations, David was able to obtain a not guilty verdict. (David mentioned attendees flying home from Santa Fe may not want to attend his presentation.)

Roberta Kaplan – New York City, NY

Robbie represented writer E. Jean Carroll in her sexual battery and defamation suits against Donald Trump, securing a \$5 million and an \$83.3 million jury verdict. In both cases juries reached their verdicts in less than three hours.

Mark Pomerantz – New York City, NY

Mark, a former federal prosecutor, is the founder of *Free + Fair Litigation Group*, a law firm dedicated to "high-impact litigation to stop the advance of authoritarianism in the United States." *Free + Fair* has filed lawsuits in Florida to prevent voter intimidation; represented teachers in Tennessee in a fight against censorship for teaching "prohibited concepts;" defended Boulder, Colorado for enforcing laws against assault weapons; and suits against book bans in Idaho. Mark says fighting authoritarianism is definitely a "growth industry."

Jack Scarola – West Palm Beach, FL

Jack was the lead attorney in a 17-year battle against Chiquita bananas for hiring a right-wing paramilitary group in Colombia. Originally hired to protect Chiquita's property against left-wing rebels, Chiquita started using its hired guns to enforce and control the workforce through violence and murder. The test case resulted in a \$38 million verdict against Chiquita for five families. Jack has 7000 cases remaining against Chiquita.

Kathy Snapka - Corpus Christi / Mary Griffitts - Dallas / Robert Swafford - Austin

Kathy (the only member of ABOTA to have a hot dog named after her) will interview these two trial consultants on how to pick a jury in these deeply polarized times.

Gen. Alfred Valenzuela – San Antonio

Valenzuela is a retired army Major General. He heads a clinic at St. Mary's Law School where law students help military veterans. In 2003, the Texas House of Representatives honored Valenzuela for his exemplary dedication to the Armed Services and his country. General Valenzuela is co-chair, along with our own Terry Tottenham, of the *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans* which provides legal assistance to military veterans who cannot afford or do not have access to the legal services they need.

Creighton Waters – South Carolina

Creighton was the lead prosecutor of Alex Murdaugh. Waters played the central role in securing the disgraced attorney's conviction for the double murder of his wife and son in 2023. Waters also spearheaded the financial crimes investigation that revealed Murdaugh's decade-long scheme to defraud clients and manipulate the legal system, resulting in hundreds of additional charges.