



**AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF TRIAL LAWYERS**

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

THE ROSENBERG SPY CASE—THEN AND NOW

BOOT CAMP CLE FOR TRIAL LAWYERS

Step back into 1951 and into one of the most polarizing trials in American history. This live mock trial revisits that prosecution, focusing on the charges against Ethel Rosenberg -- accused of conspiring with her husband and others to commit espionage against the United States. Using historical transcripts, declassified evidence, and modern legal analysis, seasoned litigators will demonstrate key phases of the trial, arguing over Ethel's guilt or innocence -- a question that continues to divide historians and attorneys.

This CLE program will feature lectures from experienced attorneys on trial strategies involving opening statements, witness examination, and closing arguments, along with discussions from several judicial panels on trial practice and what judges want from a trial lawyer. The College is honored to be joined by 6 SDMS Federal Judges and 3 Mississippi Supreme Court Justices, alongside 14 Fellows of the Mississippi Chapter who have tried over **900** jury trials as lead counsel. Throughout the day, a dynamic Q&A will allow attendees an opportunity to pose questions to the participating attorneys and judges.

Dan M. Russell, Jr. United States Courthouse - Gulfport, MS (Courtroom 706)

Friday, April 17, 2026

**Approved by the MS CLE Commission
for 6 credit hours
(including 1 hour of ethics)**

A portion of the proceeds to benefit:

***Gulf Coast Center
for Nonviolence***



SCHEDULE

PRESIDING:

Jessica B. McNeel, Program Co-Chair
Bryan, Nelson, Schroeder, Castigliola & Banahan
Pascagoula, MS

David Pitre, Program Co-Chair
Silbert, Pitre & Friedman
Gulfport, MS & New Orleans, LA

8:00

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION OPENS

8:30

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Walter C. "Bubba" Morrison, IV, Chair - State
Committee - MS, American College of Trial Lawyers
Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer
Ridgeland, MS

8:35

LECTURE: OPENING STATEMENT

*"If You Don't Know Where You are Going,
You Might Wind Up Someplace Else!"*

Wilton V. "Trey" Byars
Daniel Coker Horton & Bell
Oxford, MS

9:00

DEMONSTRATION OF OPENING STATEMENTS

Government: John Wheeler
Mitchell McNutt
Tupelo, MS

Defendant: John A. Banahan
Bryan, Nelson, Schroeder, Castigliola & Banahan
Pascagoula, MS

9:30

PANEL: ANALYSIS OF OPENING STATEMENTS

Moderator: **David Pitre**

Panelists:

Hon. Taylor McNeel, District Judge
United States District Court - Southern District of MS
Hon. Bradley Rath, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court - Southern District of MS

10:00

BREAK

Complimentary beverage & snacks provided by:
American College of Trial Lawyers - MS Chapter

10:10

LECTURE: DIRECT EXAMINATION

"Direct Examination: Telling the Story"

J. Cal Mayo
Mayo Mallette
Oxford, MS

10:40

LECTURE: CROSS-EXAMINATION

"The My Cousin Vinny Skinny"

Tim Holleman
Boyce Holleman & Associates
Gulfport, MS

11:10

DEMONSTRATION OF WITNESS EXAMINATIONS

Government: Edward C. Taylor
Carr Allison
Gulfport, MS
Defendant: Aafram Y. Sellers
Sellers & Associates
Jackson, MS

Special Thanks to Jonah Blum of **BlumPro** for providing
complimentary trial graphics and trial presentation for this event.



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11:45

PANEL: ANALYSIS OF WITNESS EXAMINATION

Moderator: **Mariano Barvié**

Panelists:

Hon. Michael K. Randolph, Chief Justice

Mississippi Supreme Court

Hon. Robert P. Myers, Jr., Magistrate Judge

United States District Court - Southern District of MS

3:00

DEMONSTRATION OF CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Government: **Christy D. Jones**

Butler Snow

Ridgeland, MS

Defendant: **Orlando "Rod" Richmond**

Butler Snow

Ridgeland, MS

12:15

LUNCH

(on your own)

3:40

BREAK

Complimentary beverage & snacks provided by:
American College of Trial Lawyers - MS Chapter

1:30

PRESENTATION: The Modern Trial Tech Lawyer

Jonah Blum, **BlumPro**

with **Jessica McNeel & David Pitre**

3:50

PANEL: ANALYSIS OF CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Moderator: **Jessica B. McNeel**

Panelists:

Hon. Louis Guirola, Jr., District Judge

United States District Court - Southern District of MS

Hon. David M. Ishee, Justice

Mississippi Supreme Court

2:00

PANEL: ETHICS & PROFESSIONALISM

"What Judges Want From Trial Lawyers"

Moderator: **Walter C. "Bubba" Morrison, IV**

Panelists:

Hon. Sul Ozerden, Chief District Judge

United States District Court - Southern District of MS

Hon. Michael T. Parker, Magistrate Judge

United States District Court - Southern District of MS

Hon. David P. Sullivan, Justice

Mississippi Supreme Court

4:20

CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN

J. Cal Mayo, Regent

American College of Trial Lawyers

2:30

LECTURE: CLOSING ARGUMENT

*"Don't Tell Me – Show Me:
The Use of Visual Aids During Closing"*

William M. Gage

Butler Snow

Ridgeland, MS

4:25 - 5:30

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Courtroom Lobby - 7th Floor

Sponsored by:

Silbert, Pitre & Friedman • Mayo Mallette

Bryan, Nelson, Schroeder, Castigliola & Banahan

Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer

Carr Allison • Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes

Watkins & Eager • Chapman, Lewis & Swan

Butler Snow • Daniel Coker • Mitchell McNutt

Boyce Holleman & Associates • Bradley



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ACTL - Mississippi Chapter - Boot Camp for Trial Lawyers CLE

THE ROSENBERG SPY CASE—THEN AND NOW

Friday, April 17, 2026 - Dan M. Russell, Jr. United States District Courthouse Gulfport, Mississippi
CLE - Courtroom 706 (8:30a-4:30p) • Cocktail Reception on 7th Floor Lobby (4:30p-5:30p)

Name _____ MS Bar Number _____

Law Firm/Employer _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Early registration is strongly encouraged as on-site registration will close when courtroom capacity is reached.

<u>Live Attendance Registration</u>	<u>Years of Practice</u>	<u>Live Attendance Fee</u>
New Attorneys	< 5 years	\$100
Public Sector Attorneys	N/A (Full-time Govt/Non-profit)	\$100
Established Attorneys	5 to 9 years	\$150
Experienced Attorneys	10 or more years	\$275

Registration for live attendees includes invitation to the cocktail reception immediately following.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE (via live video feed) will be available for registrants whose office is located more than 100 miles from the courthouse. The cost is \$100 for the first three categories listed above, and \$200 for private sector attorneys with 10 or more years of practice.

Indicate your chosen attendance plan (circle one): IN PERSON or REMOTE

RSVP (live attendees) for the cocktail reception (circle one): YES, I will attend or NO, I cannot attend

Enclose this completed form along with a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to *The Mississippi Chapter of ACTL*
Send to: Sheree West, 240 Trace Colony Park Dr, Ridgeland, MS 39157 (swest@gainsben.com - 601-933-2054 tel.)

About the American College of Trial Lawyers

The American College of Trial Lawyers is an invitation-only fellowship of exceptional trial lawyers of diverse backgrounds from the United States and Canada. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.



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