



ATTORNEY-CONDUCTED VOIR DIRE IN MASSACHUSETTS

May 20th | Suffolk University Law School

2026 PROGRAM

Attorney-conducted voir dire in Massachusetts has been born, crawled, and now walked over the past decade.

Many lawyers want to learn how to run with it.

In this program, experienced trial attorneys in four “flavors” – civil plaintiff, civil defense, criminal prosecution and criminal defense – will share their thoughts, techniques, experiences, and provide live demonstrations. All “critiqued” by experienced trial judges.

The program is sponsored by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Suffolk Law School’s Trial and Appellate Advocacy Concentration under Chris Dearborn, and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Join us!

1:30 P.M. – Registration begins at Suffolk Law school

2:00 P.M.- 5:25 P.M.. – Program

Panelists



Joe Mueller
Wilmer Hale

Joe Mueller specializes in crafting trial strategies for high-stakes cases with interdisciplinary and cross-jurisdictional issues, particularly involving intellectual property. He is the Co-Chair of Wilmer Hale’s firm-wide Trial Practice and, since 2020, has first-chaired trial teams in multiple cases with billion-dollar stakes.



Sarah Columbia
McDermott Will

Sarah Columbia has led 17 patent infringement, trade secrets, and invalidity trials across multiple jurisdictions in the last 12 years, including federal courts across the country. She counsels clients on complex transactions and intellectual property strategy and has worked with clients in industries from biotech and medical devices to internet and manufacturing.



Mark Mandell
Rhode Island plaintiffs’ firm

Mark Mandell focuses his practice on catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, liquor liability, and medical negligence cases and has obtained many million-dollar trial verdicts. He has multiple Board certifications for his expertise in civil trials and previously served as President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He was also Chair of the Plaintiffs’ settlement committee in the Station Nightclub Fire litigation, which resulted in a settlement of more than \$176,000,000.



Kelli Porges

Criminal defense, private practice

Kelli Porges worked as a public defender for 14 years before co-founding Iglehart & Porges, where she practices criminal defense. She has defended the most serious allegations in Massachusetts state court and secured not guilty verdicts in multiple first-degree murder, rape, attempted murder, child sex assault, gun, and drug trials, including several high-profile cases.



Jamie Laird

Jury consultant

Jamie Laird is the president and founder of Laird Trial Consulting, LLC. She specializes in complex commercial litigation, with an emphasis on intellectual property, and has two decades of experience working with and analyzing juries and trial data. Jamie places particular focus on connecting with witnesses in order to distill complex narratives and communicate effectively to a jury.



Elizabeth N. Mulvey

Liz Mulvey focuses her practice on medical malpractice and has tried more than 250 cases in courts throughout New England, winning multimillion-dollar verdicts in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. She is currently the only Massachusetts member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only organization for 100 of the top plaintiff’s lawyers in the United States, and has taught trial advocacy in courses run by MCLE, Harvard Law School, the ABA, and more.



Mark Lee

Suffolk County DA’s Office

Mark Lee, Chief of Homicide at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, has been an Assistant District Attorney in Suffolk County since 1997. Mark came to Boston from with extensive experience in jury voir dire as New York City ADA and helped usher in jury voir dire to Massachusetts practice at its inception when he served on the SJC Committee on Juror Voir Dire. He has also briefed and argued cases before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and Appeals Court and served.

BEHIND THE BENCH

Judge Patti Saris

Federal judge – District of Massachusetts

Patti Saris was appointed as a Judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in 1994 and served as Chief Judge of the Court from 2013 to 2019. Before being appointed as a federal judge, she worked in private practice, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and as a U.S. Magistrate Judge and Massachusetts Superior Court Associate Justice. She also served as Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission from 2011 to 2017, where she oversaw federal sentencing guidelines and worked to minimize sentencing discrepancies. Judge Saris has been an innovator on the federal bench in jury voir dire practices.

Judge Beverly Cannone

Mass Superior Court judge

Judge Cannone has served as a Massachusetts Superior Court Judge since 2014. She also worked as a public defender for over two decades and tried more than 150 cases before being appointed as a Quincy District Court Judge in 2009. She recently presided over the Karen Read trial in Norfolk Superior Court.

Scan the QR
code to register!



For questions, contact Johnny Aguirre jaguirre@molawyersmedia.com