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ABOTA partners with National Bar Association for Civil Trial Advocacy Boot Camp

One-day program to be led by distinguished trial attorneys

TORONTO (July 25, 2017) — The American Board of Trial Advocates is proud to partner with the National Bar Association for the Civil Trial Advocacy Boot Camp on Saturday, July 29, 2017, in Toronto, Ontario. This event takes place during the NBA's 92nd Annual Convention and Exhibits.

The Civil Trial Advocacy Boot Camp is a one-day program designed to instruct lawyers on effective, winning trial skills and preparation strategies led by NBA and ABOTA members serving as distinguished faculty.

"We are excited about our partnership with ABOTA to promote excellence in trial advocacy through collaboration and education," said Vanita Banks, Corporate Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company and Past President of the NBA. "Our inaugural Boot Camp is a unique opportunity for young and senior attorneys to learn from this nation's best trial attorneys." Ms. Banks is the Chair of the NBA Civil Trial Advocacy Section hosting the Boot Camp.

The NBA was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. It represents the interests of approximately 65,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. The NBA is organized around 23 substantive law sections, 9 divisions, 12 regions and 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world.

"This is a collaboration that is long overdue," said John E. Sweeney, Principal at The Sweeney Firm in Beverly Hills, California, and participating faculty for the event. "Two prestigious organizations working together to increase African-America membership in ABOTA. As a member of both the NBA and ABOTA, I can attest that this is a win-win arrangement for all."

ABOTA is an invitation-only organization of premier plaintiff and defense civil trial attorneys across the country dedicated to preserving the civil jury trial, promoting civility and integrity in

the profession and helping younger attorneys achieve a higher level of trial advocacy. With a number of members in ABOTA and the NBA, this program is a natural collaboration.

“ABOTA believes that the collective efforts of the NBA and ABOTA will make great strides to reverse the decline of the American civil jury trial,” said F. Dulin Kelly, National President of ABOTA.

He said the national decline in trials, both criminal and civil, is a disturbing trend within the judicial system. “Joint programs with partner organizations will further our efforts to add qualified lawyers to the ranks.”

The NBA Civil Trial Advocacy Boot Camp will provide lawyers with five hours of continuing legal education credit. This program is co-sponsored with the NBA Young Lawyers and the Small Firms and Solo Practitioners Divisions.

About the American Board of Trial Advocates

Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. ABOTA and its members are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ABOTA membership consists of more than 7,600 lawyers — equally balanced between plaintiff and defense — and judges spread among 97 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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Distinguished Faculty:

Vanita Banks, Corporate Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL
Rodney Diggs, Partner and Director, Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt, Los Angeles, CA
Willie Gary, Partner, Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson & Gary, PLLC, Stuart, FL
C.K. Hoffler, Partner, Edmond, Lindsay & Hoffler, LLP
Donna Johnson, Corporate Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL
Kim Keenan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), Washington, D.C.; Past President, National Bar Association
Nathaniel Lee, Principal, Lee & Fairman, Indianapolis, IN
Dean Alfreda Robinson, Associate Dean for Trial Advocacy; Professorial Lecturer in Law; Co-Director of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Program, The George Washington School of Law, Washington, D.C.
Michael Rosier, Principal, Rosier Law Firm, Bowie, MD and Washington D.C.; Past President, National Bar Association
H.T. Smith, Director, Trial Advocacy Program, Florida International University College of Law, Miami, FL; H.T. Smith PA, Miami, FL; Past President, National Bar Association
John Sweeney, Principal, The Sweeney Firm, Beverly Hill, CA
L. Chris Stewart, Stewart, Partner, Stewart, Seay & Felton, Atlanta, GA
Brandon Vaughn, Principal, Robins Kaplan LLP, Minneapolis, MN
Alecia Walters-Hinds, Partner, Lewis Brisbois, New York, NY
Lorenzo Williams, Partner, Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson & Gary, PLLC, Stuart, FL
Ron Wotorson, The Wotorson Firm, Atlanta, GA

Program Schedule:

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.: Welcome and Introductions

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Effective Trial Preparation. Jury Selection: Natural and Unnatural Selection. Objective: To assist the trial lawyer in designing and executing an insightful conversation with prospective jurors to reveal biases 1) for or against your client, 2) for or against the factual theories of your client's and opponent's cases, and 3) for or against other important issues that will be raised during your client's trial. Special emphases will be placed on the Reptilian Theory and how this model can be effectively used in winning trial strategy and execution.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.: Opening Statement and Closing Argument: Getting Better or Getting Beat! Objective: To assist the trial lawyer in acquiring a deeper appreciation of the importance of the Opening Statement in persuading jurors of the correctness of their client's trial story, and to teach both the human dynamics and legal mechanics of legal storytelling that will empower lawyers to deliver a passionate, persuasive and powerful Winning Opening Statement.

12:15 pm- 1:30 p.m.: Awards Luncheon Sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.: Cross-Examination, Including Expert Witnesses: How to Trap A Mouse! Objective: This interactive session will focus on effective cross examination skills including approach to handling expert witnesses.

2:45 – 4:30 p.m.: Advanced Trial Preparation Skills: “Through the Looking Glass: A Fantastical Exploration of Winning Advanced Trial Techniques”

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.: Wrap Up and Conclusion

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.: Networking Reception