



TEX-ABOTA
The Texas Chapters of ABOTA

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 Commandments in challenging jurors for cause. David will show how the Sermon on the Mount can be used to justify double billing.



Dan Cogdell – Houston

Dan represents Epic City, a Muslim-centric community north of Dallas. Because the project is Muslim, it has been wrongfully attacked by politicians and government agencies. Dan will outline how he and his firm have fought against these false, prejudicial attacks on his client. For political gain, Texas politicians have lied and taken extraordinary steps to stop the development. These lies have resulted in Dan and his clients receiving death threats. So much for religious freedom in Texas.



Jennifer Doan – Texarkana

Jennifer is the National President of ABOTA. She is leading ABOTA and working with other trial organizations in the fight to preserve the rule of law, due process and judicial independence. Jennifer will share with us the efforts of ABOTA and the trial bar to preserve our democracy.



Joe Fried – Atlanta, GA

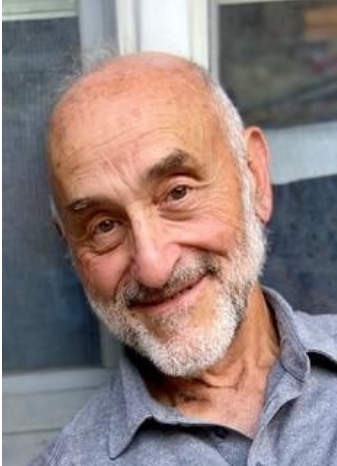
Joe is a plaintiff's lawyer who has developed an efficient and effective method to try major cases quickly. For example, Joe obtained a \$25 million verdict in a case in which the testimony took only 1 day and 2 hours. He received another jury award of \$20 million with 1 day and 30 minutes of trial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



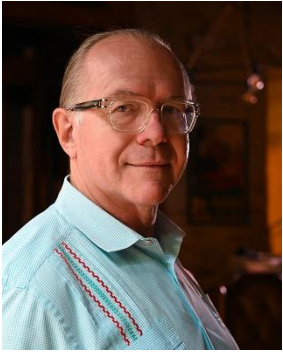
David Gerger – Houston
 After 346 passengers died in two Boeing 737 crashes, Boeing and the Federal government settled on David’s client, a Boeing engineer, to be the scapegoat. Prior to trial, prosecutors dumped 15 million documents on David’s team. Relying on two exhibits, one witness, and brilliant 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 filed suits against book bans in Idaho. Mark says fighting authoritarianism is definitely a “growth industry.” Because of his courageous work for due process and the rule of law, Mark has made President Trump’s enemies list, a list he is proud to be on.



Kathy Snapka - Corpus Christi / **Mary Griffiths** - 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 in which 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.