NEW YORK CITY BAR

2025 Professional Development

Workshop Series

Semicolons Are Stupid, and Other Legal Writing Myths: Next Level Legal Writing Skills
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Command the Room: Advanced Speaking and Presentation Skills for Lawyers
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Ethics & the New Normal of Technology, Cyber Risk and Cyber Security in the Practice of Law
Thursday, February 27, 2025 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm *(Available for Free to Sponsoring Firms Only)*

Neuroscience in Mediation, Negotiation and Decision-Making: Enhancing Your Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Skills
Thursday, March 20, 2025 | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Critical Cybersecurity Issues for Counseling Clients
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Practical Strategies for Mitigating Microaggressions in Legal Practice
Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

REGISTER TODAY! nycbar.org/pdw 212-382-6663

Free for City Bar Members and Attorneys from Sponsoring Law Firms | Non-Members: $75 per Program

For Sponsoring Law Firms Only:
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Semicolons Are Stupid, and Other Legal Writing Myths: Next Level Legal Writing Skills

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Skills

You're a good legal writer. But to be great, you need to focus on the details. That's why Stuart Teicher, Esq. thinks that things like semi-colons are super-critical. Join him as he explains how small elements like punctuation and grammar take a lawyer's writing skills to new levels. Plus, Stuart believes there are a host of punctuation and grammar rules that aren't really rules. So… do you have to follow them? He says no!

In this engaging program, Stuart explains:

- How starting a sentence with a conjunction is critical in legal writing
- A fool-proof rule for knowing when to end a sentence with a preposition
- Why it's time for lawyers to let go of Latin
- How splitting an infinitive is good for lawyers

Stuart will also address several other bad legal writing habits that should be banished from the profession!

S P E A K E R :

Stuart Teicher
Legal Educator, Teicher Professional Growth, LLC & Adjunct Faculty, Georgetown University Law Center

Stuart I. Teicher, Esq. is a professional legal educator and author who focuses on ethics law and writing instruction. A practicing lawyer for 30 years, Stuart's career is now dedicated to helping fellow lawyers survive the practice of law and thrive in the profession. Mr. Teicher teaches seminars, provides in-house training to law firms and legal departments, provides CLE instruction at law firm client events, and also gives keynote speeches at conventions and association meetings. Stuart helps lawyers get better at what they do (and enjoy the process) through his entertaining and educational CLEs.He speaks, teaches, and writes— Thomson Reuters published his book, Navigating the Legal Ethics of Social Media and Technology. His latest book is available now, entitled, How to Stop Hating the Law: A Path to Hope for Miserable Lawyers. Mr. Teicher is a Supreme Court appointee to the New Jersey District Ethics Committee where he investigates and prosecutes grievances filed against attorneys. Mr. Teicher also served on the New Jersey Office of Attorney Ethics Fee Arbitration Committee. Mr. Teicher is an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown Law where he teaches Professional Responsibility Mr. Teicher is also an adjunct professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick where he teaches undergraduate writing courses. He also taught legal writing at St. John's University School of Law in New York City. Mr. Teicher is the recipient of the Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award from Georgetown Law, and the "Distinguished Contributions to the Writing Program" Award from Rutgers University.

Command the Room:
Advanced Speaking and Presentation Skills for Lawyers

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Skills

If you're looking to become that top-tier legal thought-leader, champion client advocate, or growth-oriented, inspirational lawyer-leader, basic oral communication skills simply are not enough. You need to be able to communicate with confidence, authority, and power at a level that truly sets you -- and your message -- apart. The ability to command attention, be remembered, and motivate action isn't simply "nice to have." It is a non-negotiable legal career requirement.

Similarly, whether you are an up-and-coming associate at a law firm or an in-house lawyer, top-tier communication and presentation skills are the secret sauce that will galvanize your attorney peers, firm leaders, and clients behind your success -- and open the doors to a bounty of professional opportunities.

In this energizing and entertaining session, attorney, coach, professional speaker, and author Scott Mason will explain to legal professionals at all levels why and how "leveling up" your public presentation skills – pushing them to their max – can catapult your professional skills and accelerate the effectiveness of every arena of your legal leadership career.

Learning objectives will include:

What keeps lawyers from being truly public speaking Olympians -- and steps to move beyond it.

- 3 steps you have to take to ignite your legal public speaking presence:
  - Exploring your full charismatic range.
  - Connecting messaging to powerhouse personal expression.
  - Communication tactics to ensure that your presentation engages the audience (lawyer colleagues, clients, and beyond)
- The 3-word secret to holding on to your new-found public presentation skills
- What the introverted lawyer can do to enhance their communication skills

SPEAKER:

Scott Mason
Principal, Scott Mason, LLC

Scott Mason is the Myth Slayer: an attorney and transformational executive leadership coach for lawyers looking to uplevel their careers or leadership skills -- and have a future that is epic. After graduating from Columbia Law School, Scott worked for 20+ years as an attorney and senior executive in the government and non-profit sectors. Among other accomplishments, he led a division responsible for programmatic oversight of 300+ senior centers and home-delivered meal providers; was First Deputy Chief Executive for the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH); and served as the General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and head of operations for the USA's largest provider of domestic violence shelters. He is a two-time TEDx speaker, hosts a YouTube interview series focusing on leadership, and is the author of the upcoming 4-book series *Vision's Dawn: A Leadership Epic*, which retells Greek myths as actionable leadership parables. As a professional speaker, Scott has sat on the Board of Directors of the National Speakers Association (NYC Chapter). He is also a member of the Career Advancement & Management and the Attorney Mindfulness and Well-Being Committees of the NYC Bar Association and also is a proud alum of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program.

Ethics & the New Normal of Technology, Cyber Risk and Cyber Security in the Practice of Law

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Total: 1.0 Ethics & 1.0 Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection - Ethics
(Available for Free to Sponsoring Firms Only)

Since the pandemic, it has become clear that technology has materially changed the way most if not all lawyers practice law. Video conferencing and other technologies allow lawyers to work from almost anywhere in the world. Confidential client information is routinely exchanged across the internet and a variety of electronic platforms, which are increasingly the target of cybercriminals looking for a quick and easy payday. The courts are catching up as well, allowing in most cases for completely electronic filings and in many cases, remote appearances. And more recently, Generative AI has demonstrated its potential, in certain situations, to assist lawyers with a wide variety of tasks, including brief writing, legal research, and the drafting of contracts. Yet the ethical obligations of lawyers largely remain the same and for every new technological change comes with it new or different risks that lawyers need to understand to meet their ethical obligations. This program will attempt to shed light on these topics and more. Audience participation will be encouraged and welcome.

PROGRAM CHAIR:

John Schoolman
Assistant General Counsel,
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

John Schoolman is an Assistant General Counsel in Debevoise & Plimpton's Office of General Counsel, advising on matters of legal ethics and professional conduct, as well as other legal matters that affect the firm. Prior to joining Debevoise, John worked at another international law firm, where his practice focused on litigation. In addition to his work at Debevoise, John is a member of the New York City Bar Association Professional Ethics Committee and a past member of the Professional Responsibility Committee, and he has taught professional responsibility as an adjunct professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. John received his B.A. from Emory University and his J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Sponsoring Association Committee: Professional Ethics | David G. Keyko, Chair

Neuroscience in Mediation, Negotiation and Decision-Making: Enhancing Your Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Skills

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Skills

The program will explore the intersection between neuroscience and fundamental negotiation, mediation and decision-making skills. With lessons from neuroscience, participants will explore the barriers to effective communication and decision-making along with the potential science behind a variety of commonly used dispute resolution skills designed to overcome these barriers. Emphasis will be placed on the impact of opening statements, the framing of issues and techniques for bridging impasse and effective decision-making. Participants will also explore the structure of the brain and how these are associated with specific aspects of ADR and lawyering skills. The program is suited for mediators and other ADR neutrals of all experience levels, as well as all attorneys involved in mediation, arbitration and/or settlement negotiations.

S P E A K E R :

Daniel M. Weitz
Director, Division of Professional & Court Services, NYS Unified Court System

Daniel M. Weitz is the Director of the Division of Professional and Court Services for the New York State Unified Court System (UCS). Dan oversees the statewide offices of attorney registration, continuing legal education, language access, grants and contracts, records management, legal information, office of record production, trial court support, as well as the parent education and awareness program, guardianship assistance network, the Americans with Disabilities Act Unit and 1-800-Court-NY. From 1998-2016, Dan served as Statewide ADR Coordinator, overseeing a statewide program of court-annexed ADR initiatives involving mediation, arbitration, neutral evaluation, parenting coordination and collaborative law. He also directed the Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program. Dan serves on UCS Advisory Committees on Language Access, ADR, and Access for People with Disabilities. Dan previously served as Co-Counsel to the Board of Governors of the New York State Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program. He is a past Chair of the New York City Bar Association ADR Committee and past Co-Chair of the ABA Dispute Resolution Section, Court ADR Committee. Dan has also served on the NYC Bar Domestic Violence Committee and Science and Law Committee. Dan also served on the UCS Matrimonial Commission for which he Co-Chaired the Subcommittee on The Use of Experts. Dan has over twenty-five years of experience as a court administrator and is an international ADR speaker having presented across the United States and beyond including Japan, China, Thailand and South Africa. Dan received his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Prior to law school he served as an original member of FutureLinks Inc., working in South Africa with youth leaders from all backgrounds to conduct workshops in non-violent social change, conflict resolution, and community development.

Critical Cybersecurity Issues for Counseling Clients

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection – General

While everyone faces the risk of identity theft, high net worth individuals, company founders, political leaders, and other individuals face a different set of risks. This seminar will examine how counsel can partner with security professionals to protect client reputations, identities, and assets.

Topics will include:

- Risk identification
- Negotiating managed services contracts
- Finding and challenging identity misuse
- Applicable insurance matters
- Understanding key legal ethical requirements related to cybersecurity
- Your role as counsel in cybersecurity breaches

SPEAKER:

Paul Bond
Holland & Knight

Paul Bond, Partner, Holland & Knight, is a litigation attorney who focuses his practice in the areas of data security and privacy. He defends clients from tech- and data-related class actions that often arise following cyberattacks, such as ransomware. He defends clients in major cybersecurity and hacking litigation in the business-to-business and employment contexts. Mr. Bond counsels company founders, senior management and ultra-high-net-worth individuals and households in hardening their defenses against identity theft and responding to identity theft emergencies. He is also a Certified Identity Protection Advisor, as certified by the Identity Management Institute (IMI), and is an adviser to the firm on the legal aspects of data protection. Additionally, Mr. Bond is an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School, teaching Privacy Law Essentials for Corporate Counsel and Internet Law. He is the program chair for the Practising Law Institute's Cybersecurity Best Practices for Lawyers. He served as an instructor of Information Security Law in the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Executive Education and Certification Program at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College. After law school, Mr. Bond served a clerkship for the Honorable Peter G. Verniero of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

SPEAKER:

Sophie L. Kletzien
Holland & Knight

Sophie Kletzien is an attorney in Holland & Knight's New York office and a member of the Data Strategy, Security & Privacy Practice Group. Ms. Kletzien handles a range of litigation matters with a focus on consumer class action defense involving data security and privacy claims. Her representative matters include defense of putative class actions relating to cyber attacks, automated website data collection, wiretap claims and unfair business practices. On the advisory side of her practice, Ms. Kletzien advises clients on federal, state and international data protection and privacy laws. She also assists clients across many industries with data breach response protocols and crisis management, regulatory compliance, information governance strategy and compliance with industry security standards and frameworks. Ms. Kletzien is a Certified Information Privacy Professional in the United States (CIPP/US) with the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). During law school, Ms. Kletzien worked as a federal judicial intern in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, as well as a legal extern at the University of Pennsylvania Office of General Counsel. She served as a mediator in the Penn Law Mediation Clinic, where she handled cases involving personal injury, contract law and employment discrimination. She was also an editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*, as well as the publicity chair of University of Pennsylvania's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA).

Practical Strategies for Mitigating Microaggressions in Legal Practice

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM

NY CLE Credit: 2.0 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias

Microaggressions - often subtle, everyday comments or actions - can create lasting negative effects in the legal workplace, impacting team dynamics, client relationships, and overall firm culture. In today's increasingly inclusive legal environments, legal professionals must be equipped with strategies to mitigate microaggressions and foster a culture of respect and equity. Through real-life scenarios and interactive discussions, this program will empower participants with the tools to recognize, address, and navigate microaggressions in legal practice by:

- **Identifying common forms of microaggressions** within legal environments, and understanding their impact on communication, collaboration, and morale.
- **Analyzing the role of implicit bias** in perpetuating microaggressions and learning how to actively address bias that may occur during key interactions in the legal profession such as client meetings, performance evaluations, and team leadership.
- **Exploring generational and cultural differences** that may contribute to microaggressions, offering insights into how to bridge gaps and build more inclusive professional relationships.
- **Understanding how to recover from mistakes** when microaggressions occur, fostering accountability and growth in both individual and organization-wide practices.
- **Learning practical strategies** to mitigate microaggressions in everyday legal interactions, encouraging more thoughtful and inclusive communication with colleagues, clients, and across all levels of the legal profession.

S P E A K E R :

Paula T. Edgar
CEO, PGE Consulting Group LLC

Paula T. Edgar, Esq. is CEO of PGE Consulting Group LLC, a firm that provides training and education solutions at the intersection of professional development and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Paula is a highly sought-after speaker for clients across industries. Paula's professional development expertise includes personal branding, relationship-building, and mentor/sponsorship best practices. Paula develops customized programming for all engagements and her areas of diversity topics include unconscious bias, microaggressions, and allyship. Paula hosts the Branding Room Only podcast, sharing career stories and personal branding strategies. She also serves in leadership roles with the New York City Bar, the American Bar Association, and is a past President of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. Paula's expertise has been featured in top publications including the New York Times. Her impact has been recognized by several organizations, including receiving the CUP 2023 Law Catalyst Award and the Outstanding Non-Traditional Career Award from the National Bar Association's (NBA) Women Lawyers Division. She earned her B.A. from California State University, Fullerton, and her J.D. from CUNY Law School. Stay up to date with Paula at paulaedgar.com and LinkedIn.