

Biographies of Panelists
Business Courts Presentation
May 20, 2008

Lee Applebaum is a commercial litigation partner at Fineman, Krekstein & Harris in Philadelphia. He is co-chair of the American Bar Association's Subcommittee on Business Courts and was its the long-standing vice-chair. He has written, advised and spoken extensively on business courts. He is the past chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Business Litigation Committee and will become chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Business Law Section in 2010. He has authored or co-authored over 30 articles or book chapters, and his 1987 law review article on securities arbitration was cited and quoted in a U. S. Supreme Court Opinion.

Mitchell L. Bach is a Member of the firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, and Chair of the firm's Commercial Litigation Division in Philadelphia. He was Chair of the Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2005, and also formerly chaired the Association's Business Litigation Committee. Mr. Bach is the immediate past Chair of the ABA Section of Business Law's ("SBL") Committee on Corporate and Business Litigation, and the immediate past Chair of its Business Courts Subcommittee. Mr. Bach currently is a member of the Council of the SBL, and Co-Chair of the SBL's Ad Hoc Committee on Judges Initiative. Mr. Bach played a key role in the organization and development of the Commerce Case Management Program of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 1999; and is actively involved in the creation of other specialized business courts throughout the United States, a subject on which he writes and speaks about frequently.

Rick Gross is a shareholder with Akerman Senterfitt, resident in the firm's Miami office. He practices in the area of Business and Commercial Litigation. Mr. Gross is the co-chair of the ABA Section of Business Law Business Courts Subcommittee and has been active in the creation of Business Courts throughout the State of Florida and the United States having written and lectured frequently on the subject. He is also the current chair of The Florida Bar Business Law Section and the immediate Past President of the Dade County (Miami, Florida) Bar Association.

Robert L. Haig is a partner in the law firm of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP in New York City. His practice includes commercial, products liability, and other types of civil litigation. Mr. Haig co-chaired the Commercial Courts Task Force which New York's Chief Judge appointed to create and refine the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court. He recently organized and conducted a series of focus groups on the Commercial Division at the request of New York's Chief Administrative Judge which involved Commercial Division Judges and in-house and outside counsel for corporations and contributed to a report on the focus groups proposing improvements to the Commercial Division and other New York Courts. He has also been active in efforts to create business courts in many other states and countries. Mr. Haig is the Editor-in-Chief of two multi-volume treatises on business and commercial litigation and is the author of numerous articles and book chapters.

Cory E. Manning is a partner of Nelson, Mullins, Riley, and Scarborough LLP in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Manning's practice includes a variety of litigation, negotiation, and counseling services in both civil and criminal matters. In addition to representing clients in federal and state courts and other forums, Mr. Manning regularly advises public and private companies and their officers and directors on a broad range of issues regarding litigation risk-reduction strategies, commercial contracts, fiduciary duties, and corporate compliance matters. Mr. Manning has spoken and written on various legal topics, including specialized business courts, civil motion practices, legal ethics, negotiations, and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the ABA's Business Law Section's Subcommittee on Business Courts.

Judge Steven Platt is retired from the bench, but is the current President of the American College of Business Court Judges. He is also the acknowledged architect of the Maryland Business & Technology Case Management Program. Judge Platt is recalled in all Eight Circuits in Maryland to provide ADR and preside over Business and other Complex litigation. He also provides mediation and arbitration services privately through his company, The Platt Group, Inc.

Judge Ben Tennille started the North Carolina Business Court in 1996. He is now Chief Judge of a three judge court there. In establishing the court Judge Tennille designed a model paperless court, which employs a free electronic filing system using the Internet. It was one of the first successful efilings systems in the country. The Court was one of the first to maintain a website where all the opinions were accessible as soon as they were filed and all pleadings were accessible on the website. Judge Tennille currently maintains his chambers and his courtroom in the new Elon University School of Law, the only trial court in the country to be housed in a law school. He is immediate past president of the American College of Business court Judges and currently the ABA Judicial Division Liaison to the Business Law Section.