

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CLE registration	\$150
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Sandra Graeff
Phone: 717-541-3965
E-mail: slgraeff@widener.edu

This event will be held in the Administration Building,
Room A180. On-campus parking will be available.

*This symposium has been approved for a
total of 7.0 CLE credits in Pennsylvania and
Delaware (6 substantive credits, 1 ethics credit).*



Widener University
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Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation

A symposium sponsored by
Widener Law Journal

April 16, 2013



Widener University
School of Law
Harrisburg Campus

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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Pharmaceuticals. Asbestos. BP oil spill. “September 11th.” How does the civil justice system respond when a large number of claims derive from a product or event?

This symposium approaches mass tort litigation from a variety of perspectives. First, a group of nationally renowned legal academics describes and discusses the theories underlying mass tort litigation. Then a panel of practitioners introduces several emerging issues in the practice of mass torts. Next, Pennsylvania-specific civil justice issues, including joint and several liability and venue, are debated. These reforms affect not only mass tort, but more traditional tort litigation as well. One of the original mass tort issues— asbestos—created the widespread problem of bankrupt defendants, and resolving the problem is the subject of the fourth panel. Finally, traditional rules of ethics are applied in the mass torts context.

United States District Judge Eduardo Robreno of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania will deliver the Distinguished Address, “Federal Asbestos Litigation: Black Hole or New Paradigm?” Judge Robreno is the presiding judge of the federal asbestos multidistrict litigation docket, MDL 875, the largest and longest-lasting MDL of all. Judge Robreno’s 2008 appointment as presiding judge led to a significant change in the management of MDL 875.

“Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation” features a distinguished group of legal academics, practitioners, and judges addressing an increasingly important area of litigation. Please plan to join us.

AGENDA

- 9:00–9:15 am** **Introduction—Dean Linda Ammons**
- 9:15–10:30 a.m.** **Panel 1—Mass Tort Theory**
Moderator—**Professor Christopher Robinette** (Widener University School of Law); **Professor Michael Green** (Wake Forest School of Law); **Professor Deborah Hensler** (Stanford Law School); **Professor Linda Mullenix** (University of Texas School of Law); **Professor Aaron Twerski** (Brooklyn Law School)
- 10:30–11:45 a.m.** **Panel 2—Emerging Issues in Mass Tort Practice**
Moderator—**Professor Mary Kate Kearney** (Widener University School of Law); **Hon. Thurbert Baker** (McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP; Atlanta, GA); **John Beisner** (Skadden Arps; Washington, DC); **Tobias Millrood** (Pogust Braslow & Millrood; Philadelphia, PA); **Victor Schwartz** (Shook, Hardy & Bacon; Washington, DC)
- 12:00–1:15 p.m.** **Lunch & Distinguished Address**
Introduction by **Professor Christopher Robinette** (Widener University School of Law)
Hon. Eduardo Robreno (E.D. Pa.) *Federal Asbestos Litigation: Black Hole or New Paradigm?*
- 1:30–2:45 p.m.** **Panel 3 – Keystone State Civil Justice Issues**
Moderator—**Amaris Elliott-Engel** (Legal Intelligencer); **Nicholas Vari** (K&L Gates; Pittsburgh, PA); **Nancy Winkler** (Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler, Eisenberg & Jeck, P.C.; Philadelphia, PA); **Mark Behrens** (Shook, Hardy & Bacon; Washington, DC); **Scott Cooper** (Schmidt Kramer; Harrisburg, PA)
- 3:00–4:00 p.m.** **Panel 4—Asbestos-Related Bankruptcy Issues**
Moderator—**Professor Susan Raeker-Jordan** (Widener University School of Law); **Professor S. Todd Brown** (SUNY Buffalo Law School); **Bruce Mattock** (Goldberg, Persky & White, P.C.; Pittsburgh, PA); **William Shelley** (Gordon & Rees, LLP; Philadelphia, PA)
- 4:00–5:00 p.m.** **Panel 5—Mass Torts Ethics**
Moderator —**Professor Randy Lee** (Widener University School of Law); **Professor Sheila Scheuerman** (Charleston School of Law); **Professor Byron Stier** (Southwestern Law School) (via Skype)

Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation
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