

**DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
MID-YEAR BENCH/BAR CONFERENCE**

**Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort
St. Thomas, VI
Monday, July 2, 2012**



AGENDA

8:00-8:30 am Registration

8:30-8:40 am Welcome / Introductions

Edson A. Bostic, Federal Defender, District of Delaware; Acting Federal Defender, District of the Virgin Islands, Wilmington, DE
The Honorable Curtis V. Gómez, Chief Judge,
District Court of the Virgin Islands

8:40-9:30 am Trial Skills and Trial Ethics - Judicial Perspectives

Panelists: The Honorable Curtis V. Gómez, Chief Judge,
District Court of the Virgin Islands
The Honorable Wilma Lewis, Judge,
District Court of the Virgin Islands
The Honorable Julio A. Brady, Judge,
Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Moderator: Edson Bostic

A panel discussion presenting judicial perspectives on the effective performance of defense trial skills, and ethical issues at trial.

9:30-10:40 am Theory of the Case and Storytelling

Anthony "Tony" Natale, Supervisory Asst. Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender Organization for the Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL

Having a theory of the case and supporting themes allows one to effectively organize a case and tell a persuasive defense story. This session will define a theory and theme and will present the elements of effective, persuasive storytelling. It will address how to develop theories and themes and weave them into a defense story.

10:40-10:50 am Break

- 10:50-11:55 pm Opening Statements
Jed Stone, Esquire, Stone and Associates, Ltd., Waukegan, Illinois
- Opening statement is one's first opportunity to tell the jury what our case is all about. It is a critical part of the trial. This session will focus on the goals of, and preparation for, an opening statement, how jurors perceive opening statements, and the nuts & bolts of how to construct an opening statement that will advance the theory of the case and defense story.
- 11:55-1:10 pm Lunch
(Direct Examination: The Preparation and the Examination - 12:20-1:10)
Anthony "Tony" Natale, Supervisory Asst. Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender Organization for the Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL
- This session will show how to properly prepare a witness (in particular the defendant) for direct examination and the inevitable cross-examination by the prosecutor. In addition the session will explain how to structure and present for the jurors a persuasive direct examination that advances the theory of the case and the defense story.
- 1:10-1:40 pm Introduction to Evidence--Business Records
Heather Williams, First Assistant Federal Public Defender, Arizona Federal Public Defender, Tucson, AZ
- 1:40-2:40 pm Cross-examination
Jed Stone, Esquire, Stone and Associates, Ltd., Waukegan, Illinois
- This session will cover goals of, and preparation for, cross-examination, effective cross-examination techniques, how to properly and effectively impeach a witness, and how to advance the theory of the case and defense story through the use of cross-examination, including demonstrations of the proper techniques.
- 2:40-2:50 pm Break
- 2:50-3:45 pm Closing Arguments
Heather Williams, First Assistant Federal Public Defender, Arizona Federal Public Defender, Tucson, AZ
- Closing arguments are the last opportunity to communicate directly with the jury. This session will cover techniques that can be used to effectively and persuasively communicate the theory of the case and defense story.