



THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Northern District of Ohio Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Experts to discuss Jury Perceptions of Diversity *Program Will Be Offered by Federal Bar Association Chapter*

CLEVELAND, OHIO – How do jurors perceive diversity in the courtroom? Does it matter if lawyers, defendants, witnesses or others are from different races or ethnic groups? Should lawyers take the jury's race, ethnicity and gender into consideration when they prepare for trial?

The Federal Bar Association – Northern District of Ohio Chapter will explore these and others issues related to diversity and inclusion in a half-day program, “Jury Perceptions of Diverse Lawyers in the Courtroom” from 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse in Cleveland.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Arin N. Reeves, author of *The Next IQ: The Next Level of Intelligence for 21st Century Leaders*. Dr. Reeves will present her research on the impact jurors' perceptions of counsel, the parties and the evidence can have on the outcome of trials. Dr. J. Lee Meihls, a jury consultant and president of Trial Partners, Inc. in Beverly Hills, Calif., will provide insight on the attitudes and opinions of jurors toward diverse attorneys, based on trial simulation research.

The Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court – Northern District of Ohio, will give opening remarks and participate in a panel discussion facilitated by Annette Butler, former Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and retired U.S. Assistant Attorney. Other panel participants will include Majeed G. Makhlof, Director of Law- Cuyahoga County; Marlon Primes, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio; and Hilary S. Taylor, partner at Weston Hurd LLP.

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For more than 10 years, Reeves has worked in the areas of racial/ethnic, gender, age/generational, sexual orientation, class, and cultural diversity, equity, discrimination and harassment. She joined The Athens Group in 1999, serving as a consultant, speaker, trainer and personal coach. Reeves has a B.S. in human resource management from DePaul University, a J.D. from the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University, where her doctoral research focused on race and gender issues in the legal workplace. She currently teaches courses at Northwestern University on race and gender issues.

Meihls is recognized nationally for her expertise in jury selection, witness preparation, courtroom communication, graphics development, and developing effective trial strategies. Since founding Trial Partners in 2003, she has consulted on more than 1,000 cases and assisted in selecting more than 300 juries. She also has served as an expert witness in federal conspiracy trials and has consulted on high profile criminal cases in both state and federal courts, including Finnerty and Seligman (the Duke Lacrosse Players Rape case); People v. Michael Jackson; Christopher Wallace (Notorious B.I.G.) v. City of Los Angeles; People v. Robert Blake; and People v. Abdelgany, et al. (also known as The Irvine 11).

Meihls holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, San Diego, specializing in psychology, sociolinguistics and law. She has published numerous articles on gender issues, communications and media studies, and has held faculty and administrative positions at UCSD and National University.

Cost to attend the seminar and a reception following is \$100 for FBA members or \$150 for non-members; law students can attend free of charge. Registration is available at www.fba-ndohio.org. For information, call the Chapter's administrative office at 877-322-6364.

The Federal Bar Association – Northern District of Ohio is a professional organization for attorneys and members of the judiciary who practice in the federal system or have an interest in federal law. The FBA is committed to strengthening the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and needs of the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary and the public they serve. The Northern District of Ohio Chapter has more than 500 members. More information is available at www.fba-ndohio.org.

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