

What do lawyers get right and wrong at trial:
Views from the Most Experienced Gunslingers in the District
Wednesday, Oct. 25 (3-3:45pm)

Panel Members:

Hon. Chief Judge Rodney Gilstrap
Hon. Judge Karen Gren Scholer
Ms. Charla Aldous
Mr. Richard Sayles
Ms. Cindy Ahn (Moderator)
Ms. Holly Engelmann (Session Chair)

Overarching Theme: What do you think sets elite attorneys apart

1. (All) What are the most effective strategies that you've seen in court?
 - a. To the extent you can be specific, with details and why you thought it was effective, that would be great
2. (Judges) What are some issues that litigators spend a lot of time on that you think are ultimately a waste of effort?
3. (All) What are some of the biggest mistakes you think lawyers make at trial or in front of juries?
 - a. Overlong directs/crosses?
 - b. Not enough visual aids?
4. (Judges) Do you conduct post-verdict jury interviews? What do you think is the most significant/helpful takeaways from those interviews?
 - a. Surprising examples of what jury likes/dislikes?
5. (All) What are some tools that you think are vital for litigating in Texas?
 - a. Effective local counsel?
 - b. Mock juries? Jury consultants?
6. (All) Are there any non-obvious and practical tips that you think are especially helpful and that you wished you'd known earlier in your career?
7. (All) At the end, we will do a quick (and hopefully fun) "lighting round" where I will ask each of the panel a question that will be answerable by one word/phrase. The questions will be lighthearted and low-pressure.
 - a. E.g., if you had one superhero power, what would you pick?

