

Contempt of Court

They are words that no lawyer ever wants to hear — "You're in Contempt!"

While most attorneys know that the court has the power to hold them in contempt, probably few in the legal community fully understand when that power can be used, what the consequences of being held in contempt may be, and how the finding can be challenged. Several cases have made headlines in Pennsylvania recently because of contempt citations or sanctions by the court — a client held for 14 years in jail for refusing to reveal to the court and opposing counsel the financial information sought in a divorce proceeding; an attorney sanctioned for **his client's conduct** at a deposition, where much profanity was used. You know that findings of contempt may result from disrupting court proceedings, being disrespectful to the judge, and failing to comply with court orders and could come with sanctions such as fines or jail sentences. But do you know all the ins and outs of contempt? That power of the courts is broad and reaches well beyond the courthouse doors.

This program will explore the historical and statutory origins of contempt, highlight the difference between civil and criminal contempt, and provide a step-by-step guide to taking an appeal from a contempt citation. Hear from attorneys who have either been held in contempt or who have represented clients who have been held in contempt, as well as from judges and others who have been part of a contempt proceeding. You'll also examine what happens when court orders, your actions — or those of your client — create ethical conflicts.

Program Schedule

12:00 - 12:05 Opening Remarks

12:05 - 12:45 Overview of Contempt Power

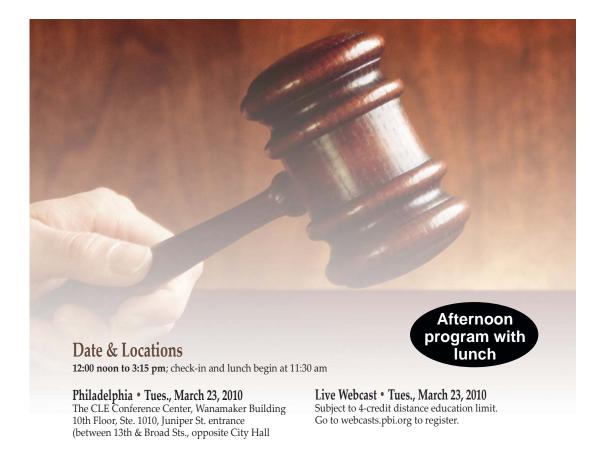
12:45 - 1:25 Contempt in Federal Court

1:25 - 1:35 Break

1:35 - 2:15 Contempt in State Court

2:15 - 2:45 The Appellate Process

2:45 - 3:15 You, Your Client and the Rules of Professional Conduct



Simulcast Locations • Tues., March 23, 2010

Doylestown

Bucks County Bar Assoc. 135 E. State St.

Greensburg

Westmoreland I.U. 7 102 Equity Dr., Auditorium

Mansfield

Mansfield University 211 Memorial Hall 20 Straughn Drive

Meadville

Economic Progress Alliance Conference Ctr. William J. Douglass Jr. Corporate Conf.Ctr. 764 Bessemer St.

Mechanicsburg

PBI Conference Center 5080 Ritter Rd., Rossmoyne Exit, Rt. 15

Media

Delaware County Bar Assoc. 335 W. Front St.

Montrose

Penn State Susquehanna Co. Cooperative Ext. County Office Building 31 Public Ave

New Castle

Penn State Cooperative Ext. Lawrence County Cthse. 430 Court St., 3rd Fl.

Pittsburgh

PBI Professional Development Ctr. Heinz 57 Center 339 Sixth Ave., 7th Fl.

Stroudsburg

Monroe County Bar Center 913 Main St.

Uniontown

Penn State University Fayette Campus Eberly Corporate Training Center Route 119 North

West Chester

Chester County Bar Assoc. 15 W. Gay St.

Wilkes-Barre

Kings College Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, Lane's Lane

Course Planner

Ellen C. Brotman, Esq.

Ms. Brotman is a partner in the White Collar Crime and Government Investigations Practice Group at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, in Philadelphia. She concentrates her practice on white collar criminal defense and representation of attorneys before the Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. She speaks and writes frequently on a variety of topics related to government investigations, criminal defense and professional ethics and co-authors a monthly column for The Legal Intelligencer on professional conduct.



Faculty

The Honorable Eduardo C. Robreno

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

The Honorable Albert W. Sheppard, Jr. Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia

Peter Goldberger, Esq.

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Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP Philadelphia

Barbara S. Rosenberg, Esq.

King of Prussia

Nancy Winkelman, Esq.

Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP, Philadelphia

You will come away with answers to these questions -

- ✔ What are the differences between civil and criminal contempt?
- ✓ When can this power of the court be used and how can it be abused?
- ✓ What are the differences in the contempt power of the federal and state judiciary?
- ✓ Who can be held in contempt attorneys, clients, jurors – and when and why?
- ✓ How do you appeal a contempt order?



professional education credits

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 2 hours of CLE credit in substantive law and 1 hour in ethics*.

*This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 2 hours of CLE credit in substantive law and 1 hour in ethics. One hour of ethics issues will be integrated into the 3 hours of this program. If you attend less than the full time of the program, you will receive only substantive credits for the time of your attendance. If you attend the entire program, you will receive 2 credits in substantive law and 1 credit in ethics.

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