

## PRESENTERS' BIOS

### *Effective Appellate Advocacy: Writing Persuasive Appellate Briefs Tips for Oral Argument*

#### **The Hon. Sidney R. Thomas:**

Sidney R. Thomas was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a circuit judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Jan. 2, 1996, and received his judicial commission on Jan. 4, 1996. Judge Thomas served as Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit from 2014 to 2021 and assumed senior status on May 4, 2023. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he was in private practice in Billings from 1978 to 1995. He also was as an adjunct instructor of law at Rocky Mountain College in Billings from 1982 to 1995. Judge Thomas received his B.A. from Montana State University in 1975 and his J.D. from the University of Montana School of Law, graduating with honors in 1978. He maintains chambers in Billings

#### **The Hon. William A. Fletcher:**

Ninth Circuit Judge William Fletcher grew up in Seattle. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and spent a year as an exchange student in Marseille, France. He received a B.A. from Harvard College, with a concentration in English History and Literature. After graduation, he spent two years at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar where he received a second B.A., this time in English Language and Literature. He then served two years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1975.

After law school, Judge Fletcher clerked for District Judge Stanley Weigel and Supreme Court Justice William Brennan.

From 1977 to 1999, Judge Fletcher was a professor at U.C. Berkeley School of Law, specializing in Federal Courts, Civil Procedure, and legal history. He received a campus-wide U.C. Berkeley Distinguished Teaching award in 1993. Judge Fletcher is fluent in French and has taught and lectured in Paris, Aix-en-Provence, and Toulouse. When he was appointed to the bench, Judge Fletcher was the

Richard W. Jennings, Jr., Professor of Law. Although he is now emeritus, he continues to teach Federal Courts at Berkeley Law.

Judge Fletcher was nominated to the Ninth Circuit by President Bill Clinton in 1995 and was finally confirmed in late 1999. He took senior status in 2022 and continues to serve on the Ninth Circuit as a senior judge.

Judge Fletcher has been married to the former Linda Morris for fifty-five years. They live in Berkeley where they raised their three daughters, Anne, Leah, and Caroline. Their grandchildren often keep them company in the house where they have lived since 1978. Judge Fletcher and his wife grew up hiking, sailing, and skiing in the Pacific Northwest. They hike every summer with their long-time hiking group. They still ski, now with their grandchildren.

### **The Hon. Eric D. Miller:**

Eric D. Miller is a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. He was appointed in 2019. His chambers are in Seattle, Washington.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Miller was in private practice in Seattle, where he also served as a part-time lecturer at the University of Washington School of Law. He previously served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States, as Deputy General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission, as an attorney on the Appellate Staff of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and as an attorney-adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Judge Miller received his A.B. from Harvard University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the Honorable Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States.

### **Matthew Yelovich:**

Matthew Yelovich is a partner in litigation at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, focusing on internal and government investigations, complex civil litigation, and appeals. Before joining the firm, Matt served as the Deputy Criminal Chief at

the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, where he (alongside the Criminal Chief) oversaw approximately 100 federal prosecutors and 15 supervisors. Before that, Matt was the Office's Appellate Chief, overseeing all briefing and argument at the Ninth Circuit in criminal cases from the district, and directly supervising a section of dedicated appellate AUSAs and paralegals. In his nearly ten years as a federal prosecutor in the Northern and Eastern Districts of California, Matt investigated and prosecuted numerous fraud and related offenses from case opening through trial and appeal, and he has personally briefed and argued various complex issues of first impression at the appellate level. Matt began his career as an associate at a large international law firm in New York, and he clerked for the Hon. Reena Raggi of the Second Circuit. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Duke University, and he has taught advanced legal writing and advocacy at Stanford Law School and the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco.