

# Understanding & Predicting Jury Behavior

## *What works and what doesn't*

Jurors are your audience. They make or break your case.

Atticus Finch best summarized a jury's importance in his closing argument: "The court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the men and women who make it up... The integrity of our courts and our jury system – that is no ideal to me, it is a living and working reality."

The poignancy of that statement becomes clear through valuable insight offered into jurors' minds.

Hear from a Superior Court Justice and an attorney who have spoken with over 3,300 jurors in their deliberation room after rendering their verdicts. Hear practical, common sense advice about what works—as well as what does not work—with jurors.

## Agenda

- How to Draft Meaningful and Proper *Voir Dire* Questions
- What Visual and Aural Cues to Watch and Listen for in Selecting a Jury
- What "Turns Off" Jurors
- How to Interpret Juror Body Language
- What Jurors Think About Lawyers and How to Combat Negative Images
- How to Speak With, Instead of At, Jurors
- How to Anchor Your Juror Award Requests

## Speakers



Superior Court Justice **DENNIS J. CURRAN** (Ret.) has presided over 450 civil and criminal trials. He has taught at Tufts and Brown Universities and the Roger Williams University School of Law.

He has received four statewide awards for judicial excellence, including the Chief Justice Edward Hennessey Award for "extraordinary leadership" from the Massachusetts Bar Association and the "Judicial Courage Award" from the American Board of Trial Advocates.

As a Boston trial attorney for 23 years, he was "AV" rated by Martindale-Hubbell and achieved distinction in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.



**VINCENT N. DePALO** practices civil litigation at Smith Duggan Buell & Rufo LLP in Boston, where he concentrates his practice in asbestos litigation, toxic torts, products liability, and insurance defense. He has garnered both trial and arbitration experience in the District and Superior Courts throughout Massachusetts and, prior to joining Smith Duggan, served as a staff attorney at the Middlesex Superior Court and as a judicial fellow for Associate Justice Dennis J. Curran. A graduate of Manhattan College and the University of New Hampshire School of Law, Vincent has contributed to various legal and scientific articles and is a frequent guest lecturer at Northeastern University and Roger Williams University Schools of Law. He is the author of, among

other articles, "Stiff Medicine: The Medicare Lien Process," for the journal of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys.

## Dates & Location

Register at [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org)

### LIVE WEBCAST

Tuesday, January 25, 2022  
1:00 pm–2:00 pm  
Program Number: 220146WBC

### REBROADCAST

Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
10:00 am–11:00 am  
Program Number: 220146RBC

### REBROADCAST

Thursday, February 17, 2022  
12:00 noon–1:00 pm  
Program Number: 220146RB1

### ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Thursday, February 17, 2022  
Program Number: 220146WBA

## Tuition *(includes written materials)*

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