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CLE Credit – This Symposium offers 7.0 hours of CLE credit. Southwestern is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider.

Location – The Southwestern campus is located in the Wilshire Center district of Los Angeles, three blocks east of Vermont on Wilshire Blvd., only two miles west of downtown. For a map and directions, visit www.swlaw.edu/directions. Parking is available on campus for \$6.

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Perspectives on Asbestos Litigation

Asbestos litigation is America's longest-lasting mass tort phenomenon, and its importance only continues to grow. A recent study confirms that by 2009, asbestos will have killed nearly a quarter million people and injured millions more. As of 2002, approximately 730,000 people had filed asbestos claims. Although an increasing number of claimants suffer from mesothelioma, a virulent form of cancer, over ninety percent of recent claimants have nonmalignant injuries with no physical impairments. These claims have been asserted against at least 8,400 corporate and other entities through 2002, resulting in at least 73 bankruptcies and the loss of up to 60,000 jobs. All told, these firms have spent \$70 billion on asbestos litigation, with only \$30 billion, or forty-two percent of the total, going to the injured claimants.

This unprecedented crisis, in turn, has spawned a variety of dramatic responses, often in the name of efficiency, or fairness, or both. Counsel have experimented with large-scale group settlement processes, multidistrict litigation, class actions and case consolidations. Courts have created deferred and expedited dockets, entertained novel bellwether trials and improvised innovative approaches to complex questions of expert testimony, causation and apportionment of liability. Even Congress has become involved, amending the bankruptcy code and drafting a bill to create a public compensation fund.

This symposium places these developments in perspective. By assembling speakers with diverse experiences and viewpoints and juxtaposing them in provocative panels, Perspectives on Asbestos

Litigation not only offers a comprehensive look at this unique problem, but also seeks to initiate a multilateral dialogue dedicated to synthesis and solutions – all in a unique format that moves from the most practical issues to the most theoretical, political and sociological. Thus, the discussion will begin from within the trenches of asbestos litigation with Practical and Judicial Perspectives; will turn to tort theory in Moral and Economic Perspectives; will explore the boundaries of tort, the role of complex litigation, and the viability of nontort alternatives in Private and Public Law Perspectives; and will culminate by considering the litigation's broader ramifications and effects in Social and Cultural Perspectives. The event will conclude with a question and answer session between the speakers, panelists and the audience on this timely and important topic.

Schedule

Introduction and Welcome 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Dean Bryant Garth, Southwestern Law School Background on the Asbestos Crisis -Professor Byron Stier, Co-Chair of the Symposium, Southwestern Law School Purpose & Structure of the Symposium – Professor Alan Calnan, Co-Chair of the Symposium, Southwestern Law School 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Judicial and Practical Perspectives** Moderator - Professor James Fischer, Southwestern Law School Speakers - Mark Behrens, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.; Justice Helen Freedman, New York State Supreme Court; Professor Michael Green, Wake Forest University School of Law; Steven Kazan, Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Lyons, Farrise & Greenwood, PLC 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break Moral and Economic Perspectives 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Moderator - Professor Alan Calnan Speakers – Professor Mark Geistfeld, New York University School of Law; Professor Keith Hylton, Boston University School of Law; Associate Dean Gregory Keating, William T. Dalessi Professor of Law and Philosophy, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law; Professor David Owen, University of South Carolina School of Law **Lunch and Keynote Address** (BW Second Floor) 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Introduction – Professor Judy Sloan, Southwestern Law School Keynote Address – Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington and Director of the Federal Judicial Center **Public and Private Law Perspectives** 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Moderator - Professor Byron Stier Speakers - Professor Howard Erichson, Seton Hall Law School and Fordham Law School (Visiting); Professor Francis McGovern, Duke University School of Law; Professor Linda Mullenix, University of Texas School of Law; Professor Richard Nagareda, Vanderbilt University Law School 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break

Presentations will be held in BW390 unless otherwise noted.

Social and Cultural Perspectives

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	Moderator – Dean Bryant Garth
	Speakers – Professor Anita Bernstein, Brooklyn
	Law School; Professor Deborah Hensler, Stanford
	Law School; Professor Joseph Sanders, University
	of Houston Law Center; Professor Neil Vidmar,
	Duke University School of Law
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Capstone Session – Synthesizing Perspectives:
	Quick Takes, Questions and Answers
	Moderator – Professor Ronald Aronovsky,
	Southwestern Law School
	Co-Chair Quick Takes - Professors Alan Calnan
	and Byron Stier
	Speaker Quick Takes – Various Participants
	Questions and Answers – Speakers and Audience
5:00 p.m.	Reception
	D ' (('

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Name

Affiliation

Registration

To register, complete the form below and return it with the registration fee by **January 11, 2008** to *Perspectives on Asbestos Litigation Symposium,* Student Affairs Office, Southwestern Law School, 3050 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Registration will also be available at the symposium.

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