



The Florida Registered Paralegal Enrichment Committee
presents

How to Prepare for Trial When the Client is Innocent, and the Deck is Stacked Against Them: The Brenton Butler Murder Trial

Friday, June 19, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE

Course 3362

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COURSE SYNOPSIS

Topics involving the case are false confessions and erroneous eyewitness identification.

This presentation will focus on the defense's preparation techniques for a criminal case going to trial. Specifically what information you can obtain during pretrial depositions, discovery documents from opposing parties as well as potential witnesses and experts; Interviewing eyewitness, experts, and a sociologist expert familiar with false confessions; preparing and filing motions attacking the voluntariness of confessions and eyewitness identification, along with having hearing on those issues; case factual investigation. Further, the presentation will identify specific strategies on how to prepare a juvenile for testimony.

Presenters: Ann Finnell
Patrick McGuinness

PRESENTERS

Ann Finnell & Patrick McGuinness, attorneys at Finnell, McGuinness, Nezami & Andux, P.A.; Criminal, Personal Injury & Family Lawyers in Jacksonville, FL



ANNE E. FINNELL, ESQUIRE

Ann E. Finnell has been a trial lawyer for over 35 years. She has handled homicide and death penalty cases since 1981 and focuses on complex homicide litigation including death penalty mitigation. In addition, she has tried serious felony cases including second degree murder and manslaughter cases, sexual battery cases, kidnapping, armed robbery, armed burglary and other violent crimes.

Ann E. Finnell is a graduate of Duke University and the University of Florida College of Law. Ms. Finnell has extensively lectured and taught in the areas of criminal trial practice and death penalty practice. She has lectured for the Florida Public Defender Association, Arizona Public Defenders, Wisconsin Public Defenders and Montana Public Defenders. She has taught at the Prosecutor/Public Defender Program in Gainesville, Florida since 1988 and has taught at the Florida Public Defenders College. She also lectured for the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys Annual Conference in Aspen, Colorado.

Ms. Finnell previously served on the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, and on the Criminal Procedure Rules Committee. She was the 2007-08 Chair of the Executive Council of the Criminal Law Section of the Florida Bar and served on the Bar's Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee. Ms. Finnell is the 1996 recipient of the Barnard Award, in recognition of outstanding service, from the Florida Public Defender Association. Ms. Finnell was featured in the 2002 Oscar-winning documentary "Murder on a Sunday Morning" along with Patrick T. McGuinness, a shareholder in the firm. The film documented the defense team successfully defending a young man against the false charge of murder.

Ms. Finnell is a Master of the Chester Bedell Inn of Court, a founding member of the Northeast Chapter of the Florida Association of Defense Attorneys, a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, the Florida Bar and the Bar of the Middle District of Florida.

Ms. Finnell is a past President of the Jacksonville Women Lawyer's Association and is a past President of the Jacksonville League of Women Voters. She has also previously served on the local Duke Alumni Advisory Admissions Committee.

- Duke University, B.A.
- University of Florida School of Law, J.D.
- Florida Bar, Criminal Law Section, Executive Counsel, Past Chair 2007-08
- Jacksonville Bar Association
- Florida Association of Defense Attorneys, Northeast Chapter, Founding Member
- The Florida Bar, Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee
- Supreme Court Committee, Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases
- Jacksonville Women Lawyer's Association, Past President
- Jacksonville League of Women Voters, Past President
- Chester Bedell Inn of Court, Master
- Florida Bar, Criminal Rules Committee, Past Vice Chair
- Florida Bar
- U.S. (Federal) District Court, Middle District of Florida



PATRICK MCGUINNESS

Mr. McGuinness is of counsel and represents a limited number of criminal cases. Mr. McGuinness left the Public Defender's Office in Jacksonville, Florida as a senior trial attorney in the homicide division after 31 years of service. During his tenure, Mr. McGuinness worked in every division handling felonies and misdemeanors, as well as mental health issues.

Since 1983, he has worked primarily capital cases, first and second degree murder cases and manslaughter cases. In addition, he has been the lead counsel in many of the most high profile cases tried in Jacksonville over the past three decades. Mr. McGuinness has developed a particular expertise in dealing with forensic evidence and has been called upon to present at seminars in Florida and across the country on forensic issues, cross-examination, case investigation, false confessions and a variety of other topics.

Mr. McGuinness' trial efforts and successes have been chronicled over the years by the press and a number of television programs. Mr. McGuinness and his partner, Ann Finnell, were the featured counsel in a film "Murder on a Sunday Morning" which followed a local murder case that ultimately drew international attention. After the successful conclusion of the case and the vindication of their client, the film was featured on HBO and won an Oscar (Academy Award) for the best documentary in 2002.

- University of Connecticut, School of Business, Storrs, CT, 1973, B.A. in Business Administration
- University of Miami School of Law, Miami, FL, 1977, J.D.
- Jacksonville Bar Association
- Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Florida Bar
- U.S. (Federal) District Court, Middle District of Florida

CLE Credit

General: 3.0 hours

Certification Credit

Appellate Practice: 3.0 hours
Criminal Appellate Law: 3.0 hours
Criminal Trial Law: 3.0 hours
Juvenile Law: 3.0 hours