

M. Chris Fabricant - As the Joseph Flom Special Counsel and Director of Strategic Litigation, Chris leads the Innocence Project's Strategic Litigation Department, whose attorneys develop and execute national litigation strategies to address the leading causes of wrongful conviction, including eyewitness misidentification, the misapplication of forensic sciences and false confessions. Previously, he was a clinical law professor and the director of the Criminal Justice Clinic at the Pace Law School, where he was named a "Bellows Scholar" by the Clinical Legal Education Section of the Association of American Law Schools for his work developing one of the nation's first "combined advocacy" criminal defense clinics. Chris has over a decade of criminal defense experience at the state and federal, trial and appellate levels with The Bronx Defenders and Appellate Advocates. He began his career as a pro se law clerk in the Southern District of New York, and received his J.D. with Honors and a Corpus Juris Secundum distinction in criminal law from the George Washington University Law School.

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Steven H. Kessler served as the U.S Department of Justice Resident Legal Advisor for over thirteen years, serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, and Indonesia. Mr. Kessler received his Bachelor's and Juris Doctor degrees from the George Washington University in 1978 and 1981. He served as a legislative assistant in the United States Senate and then went on to work as a prosecutor in the Office of the Kings County District Attorney, Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Kessler worked for over twenty years in New York, prosecuting homicides, narcotics cases, robberies, and other violent crimes. He joined USDOJ in 2003, serving in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2003-2007), Yerevan, Armenia (2007-2012), and Jakarta, Indonesia (2012-2016). In Sarajevo, Mr. Kessler trained Bosnian, European, and American judges on international humanitarian law, and also provided training on the adversarial system and war crimes prosecution. While in Armenia, Mr. Kessler helped to develop a new criminal procedure code for post-Soviet Armenia, and taught graduate courses on American constitutional law and criminal law at the American University of Armenia. In Indonesia, he focused on combatting corruption, illegal fishing, and environmental crimes. At present he lives in Saratoga Springs, New York, with his wife, his son, and five cats (the first two former citizens of Ukraine, the last five former citizens of Armenia).

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Michael Burke is a national speaker, giving presentations to various bar association CLE (Continuing Legal Education) sections, on professional responsibility and ethics. He focuses on compulsive gambling and trading addictions. He has also done presentations on behalf of the American Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association, the National Council on Problem Gambling, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Catholic Church Leadership Conference, and many others.

Mr. Burke's former work experience includes twenty-five years as a practicing attorney specializing in legal problems of individuals suffering from substance abuse, a position on the Brighton Hospital Board of Directors and leadership roles in many community organizations. He currently is a board member on the Michigan Association on Problem Gambling, Michigan Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors and the Michigan Health Professional Recovery Program. He has appeared on numerous T.V. Shows including CNN. He has had articles published in the Huffington Post, the Guardian, Detroit Free Press, the Legal News, and the MBA and ABA journals. He has authored a book entitled [Never Enough](#) which was released by the American Bar Association in May 2008.



Bench and Bar CLE Seminar

THE RULE OF LAW

The Inn at Ole Miss Hotel
and Conference Center
University, Mississippi

Friday, October 21, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

**THE JUDGES OF THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI**

SHARION AYCOCK, CHIEF JUDGE
ABERDEEN

MICHAEL P. MILLS, DISTRICT JUDGE
OXFORD

DEBRA M. BROWN, DISTRICT JUDGE
GREENVILLE

NEAL BIGGERS, SENIOR JUDGE
OXFORD

GLEN H. DAVIDSON, SENIOR JUDGE
ABERDEEN

DAVID A. SANDERS, MAGISTRATE JUDGE
ABERDEEN

JANE M. VIRDEN, MAGISTRATE JUDGE
GREENVILLE

LEROY D. PERCY, MAGISTRATE JUDGE
OXFORD

JASON WOODARD, BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
ABERDEEN

AGENDA

Noon - 1:00

On-site Registration

1:00 - 1:15

Welcoming Remarks & Comments

Chief Judge Sharion Aycock
Northern District of Mississippi

1:15 - 2:15

**Flawed Forensic Sciences, Wrongful
Conviction and the Federal Forensic Agenda**

M. Chris Fabricant
*Innocence Project
New York, NY*

2:15 - 3:15

**What I Learned in 13 Years in Bosnia,
Armenia, and Indonesia**

Steven H. Kessler
*U. S. Department of Justice
Saratoga Springs, NY*

3:15 - 3:30

Break

3:30 - 4:30

Never Enough: A Lawyers Ethical Nightmare

Michael Burke
Author of Never Enough

4:30 - 5:30

Courting the Court: Advice From the Bench

Judge Michael P. Mills
Judge Jenny Virden
Gina K. Smith
Brooke Driskell

5:30

**Swearing in Ceremony for Magistrate Judge
LeRoy Percy**

Chief Judge Sharion Aycock

5:35

Bench and Bar Reception