

**JUDICIAL NUTS & BOLTS ACADEMY**  
**Lavender Law Conference**  
**August 10, 2018**

**Description**

The Judicial Nuts & Bolts Academy is intended for lawyers who are testing the waters and wishing to learn more about the process of becoming a judge, to assist their decision-making process regarding whether to become a candidate or applicant for a judicial position. All participating judges are serving purely in a mentoring capacity; they will speak from their own experiences about issues that arose for them on their path to the judiciary. Judges will not provide campaign advice or political advice, and will not involve themselves in any candidate's campaign for any office, including through endorsements. All conversation is "off the record," and participants are expected to preserve confidentiality regarding all information shared that is not already publicly available.

**Agenda (Registrants' Copy)**

**1:30 – 2:30 Group Discussion led by Judges - True Nuts & Bolts**

- I.     **How to decide whether seeking a judicial position is right for you**
- II.    **Importance of testing the waters well in advance**
- III.   **Ethical issues**
  - a.   Public Comments
  - b.   Social Media
  - c.   Involving Judges In Your Candidacy
  - d.   Balancing A Law Practice Against the Candidacy
- IV.    **Whether and how to address Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

**2:30 – 3:15 Small Group Breakouts Round 1**

**3:15 – 4:00 Small Group Breakouts Round 2**

- I.     **Practical Issues For Those Considering Running for Elected Positions**  
      **(Primarily delivered in groups led by**
  - a.   Differences in partisan and non-partisan races
  - b.   Fundraising Basics
    - i.   What type of campaign expenses tend to arise that require funding?
    - ii.   How to ensure all fundraising efforts comport with ethics requirements
    - iii.   Take a course specifically on fundraising to learn how to "Make an Ask"
    - iv.   See article: <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/03/judicial-elections-fundraising-115503>
    - v.   How to build a campaign plan (and where to learn more about doing it)

- c. What to consider when building a campaign staff
  - i. Treasurer - a critical position for meeting your ethical obligations for campaign disclosures! Get an expert!
  - ii. Do you need paid staff?
  - iii. How to find and manage volunteer staff
- II. **Practical Issues For Those Considering Appointed Positions**  
**(Primarily delivered in groups led by**
  - a. Discussion of the ABA's Standards on State Judicial Selection
  - b. How to manage the "political" nature of the nominations/appointment process [Not meaning this in a partisan sense, but in a networking one] How to get the "ear" of the decisionmakers?
  - c. The Selection Commission's interview process  
[review this article: <http://mnbenchbar.com/2013/12/so-you-want-to-be-a-judge/> ]  
[review this article:  
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/JudicialMeritPage/JudgeshipJMSC/GeneralInfo/Sample.SwornStatementforCircuitCourtNewCandidate2017.pdf> ]

**4:00 – 4:15 Break**

**4:15 – 5:00 Networking for attendees and general Q & A**