



Taking & Defending Depositions

Doing Depositions

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Practical & Entertaining Education for:

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Meet the Faculty

Panelists

Max Stein – Maxson Mago & Macaulay, LLP

Warren Holland - Goldberg, Miller & Rubin

Frank Dylewski - Phillips Lytle LLP

Moderator

Seth Horvath - Nixon Peabody LLP

About This Webinar

Taking & Defending Depositions

This webinar covers the essentials of taking and defending depositions. A critical skill for litigators.

As the number of civil trials continues to decrease, depositions have become increasingly important in driving the outcome of civil litigation. Among other things, they factor into requests for additional discovery, summary-judgment briefing, and settlement discussions. Because depositions often can make or break a case, proper preparation on both sides is critical.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the purpose of depositions and how they fit into the broader litigation strategy
- Learn essential preparation techniques
 - Preparing yourself as the questioning lawyer
 - Preparing your witness to testify effectively and withstand tough questioning
- Master questioning techniques to control the deposition and gather key information
 - Open-ended vs. leading questions
 - Handling evasive or combative witnesses
- Learn how to object effectively during depositions as the defending lawyer
- Identify common pitfalls during depositions and strategies to avoid them.
- Gain confidence in managing difficult situations, such as improper objections, witness coaching, and adversarial tactics.

About This Series

Doing Depositions

This series addresses, in three concise parts, how to effectively take and defend depositions, how to use deposition testimony at summary judgment, and how to use deposition testimony at trial.

Depositions are a cornerstone of litigation practice. A well-structured deposition and a well-formulated strategy for tracking and using deposition testimony as a case proceeds can pay enormous dividends in litigation. Yet mastering them takes time, preparation, and practice.

This webinar series provides you with a comprehensive understanding of depositions—from preparing for and conducting them, to leveraging them effectively at key stages of litigation. Whether you're taking your first deposition, seeking to refine your skills, or even preparing to testify at a deposition, this webinar series is designed to equip you with practical tools to handle depositions confidently and strategically.

Depositions play a critical role in shaping cases, uncovering evidence, testing witnesses, and building narratives that can make or break a case. By learning how to properly prepare, conduct, defend, and utilize depositions, you will gain an invaluable edge.

Episodes In This Series

1. Taking & Defending Depositions
Premiere date: 6/3/25
2. Using Deposition Testimony at Summary Judgment
Premiere date: 7/15/25
3. Using Deposition Testimony at Trial
Premiere date: 8/26/25

Episode #1

Taking & Defending Depositions

Each Financial Poise Webinar is delivered in Plain English, understandable to investors, business owners, & executives without much background in these areas, yet is of primary value to attorneys, accountants, & other seasoned professionals. Each episode brings you into engaging, sometimes humorous, conversations designed to entertain as it teaches. Each episode in the series is designed to be viewed independently of the other episodes so that participants will enhance their knowledge of this area whether they attend one, some, or all episodes.

INTRODUCTION

Why are depositions important?

Preparing To Take A Deposition

- Main objectives
- Rules of the jurisdiction
- Deciding whom to depose
- Structuring your examination
- Using documents

Taking A Deposition

- Open-ended v. leading questions
- The obstructive attorney
- The obstructive witness
- Newly disclosed documents
- Virtual v. in-person depositions
- Audiovisual recording

MIDPOINT

The things we see at depositions

Preparing To Defend A Deposition

- Main objectives
- Preparation time
- Convincing a witness to engage
- Communicating with a witness
- Mock cross-examination

Defending A Deposition

- When to object
- The aggressive questioner
- Redirect examination
- Taking breaks
- Counseling a witness during a deposition

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions about this webinar that you did not get to ask during the live premiere, or if you are watching this webinar [On Demand](#), please do not hesitate to email us at info@financialpoise.com with any questions or comments you may have. Please include the name of the webinar in your email & we will do our best to provide a timely response.

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Meet The Faculty

Frank Dylewski - FDylewski@phillipslytle.com



Frank has extensive experience in high-profile, complex litigation across a number of industries including energy, finance, manufacturing, technology, insurance, and private equity.

Frank's diverse litigation background includes antitrust, product liability, class actions, consumer fraud, breach of contract, insurance coverage, partnership disputes, professional negligence, mass torts, defamation, and fraud. Frank has represented clients ranging from individuals and family-owned businesses to Fortune 100 companies. He brings a long history of success to the firm's Litigation Practice.

Prior to joining Phillips Lytle, Frank litigated complex disputes at national litigation firms including Kirkland Ellis LLP and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP.

Warren Holland - wholland@gmrlawfirm.com



Warren Holland has litigated cases in several state and federal jurisdictions, including Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey with over 100 defense verdicts at trial. He is well-versed in state and federal civil procedure and evidentiary practice, and has experience in all stages of litigation from the initial pleadings through appeals, including: written discovery, deposition preparation of corporate designees and fact witnesses, examinations under oath, depositions of parties and witnesses, and pre-trial and post-trial motion practice. His trial experience ranges from defending individuals in personal injury actions, to defending insurance companies and medical professionals against multimillion-dollar allegations of defamation, civil conspiracy, bad faith and malpractice.

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Seth Horvath - sahorvath@nixonpeabody.com



Seth Horvath focuses his practice on trial and appellate litigation in state and federal courts nationwide. His commercial litigation experience is wide-ranging. From single-witness administrative hearings to complex, multiparty trials to summary proceedings on issues of law, he represents clients in the real-estate, financial-services, manufacturing, legal, and medical industries, among others. Each commercial case is unique, and Seth enjoys the challenge of helping clients identify creative and effective legal solutions tailored to meet their business goals.

Max Stein – mstein@em3law.com



Max works with clients to cost-effectively solve problems. Usually that means litigating, where Max has wide-ranging experience in state and federal courts. Sometimes it means finding creative solutions to their disputes. What it also means, though, is giving practical advice for their businesses.

Over the years Max has litigated and resolved contract disputes, trademark & trade secret cases, partnership & shareholder disputes, civil RICO & securities fraud claims, legal malpractice cases, bank & loan-related claims, and consumer fraud matters. He also has represented parties in commercial real estate disputes, including both landlords & tenants, and on issues relating to condominium associations. In addition to his extensive trial and appellate experience, Max regularly advises clients on a wide array of legal and business issues outside the courtroom. [Read More](#)

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