

“Is It Just Me?” – Secondary Trauma in the Courtroom

Saturday, October 19, 2024
10:30 – 11:45 AM



Given the current technology with body worn camera footage, surveillance cameras and cell phones, modern trials frequently require everyone in the courtroom to see first-hand on film the trauma suffered by crime victims and personal injury victims. Learn from Dr. Sarina Saturn about the basic neurobiology behind secondary trauma and its effect on the body and mind, as well as resiliency strategies to support our personal and collective well-being. Then hear from Dr. Taylor Geyton, whose clients included judicial officers and justice partners during the height of the pandemic and social justice upheavals. Finally, Judge Joan P. Weber will discuss how a judge’s responsibilities in her courtroom not only require her to address any secondary trauma to herself, but she should also pay close attention to the secondary trauma to the lawyers, her staff, and jurors.

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Implement early intervention to protect and support those in the courtroom exposed to secondary trauma.
- Gain insight on identifying signs/symptoms of secondary trauma.
- Find ways to seek professional guidance catered to the unique needs of those exposed to secondary trauma in the courtroom.

SPEAKERS:



Taylor Geyton, PhD, Professor of Social Work, San Diego State University

Dr. Geyton is a Professor of Social Work at San Diego State University and former Professor at Portland

State University. Her prior research involved reducing disparities in the physical, financial, and social prosperity of Black women through the exploration of resistance, social movements, and activism as

vessels for collective healing. Dr. Geyton employed qualitative and quantitative methods in the exploration of Black women's activism, health, and wellbeing. She has experience working as a licensed clinician with judicial officers post-retirement/exiting the bench.



Sarina Saturn, PhD, Founder and Faculty, Contemplative-Based Resilience Oregon

Dr. Saturn received her Ph.D. in neuroscience from New York University and did postdoctoral work at Stanford University and the University of California – Berkeley. She is CHamoru/Desi who specializes in the neuroscience of emotions, antiracism, feminism, and intersectional equity. Her research has been featured in publications including the New York Times, National Public Broadcasting’s (NPR’s) Science Friday and Scientific American Mind. Dr.

Saturn is a past tenured professor and community scientist in Public Health. She is currently founder and faculty of Contemplative-Based Resilience (CBR) Oregon from the Garrison Institute’s CBR program, Editor of the ADVANCE Journal for Individual and Institutional Transformation for Social Justice, and Director of Strategic Partnerships for a nonprofit that centers the critical connection between equity and well-being



Hon. Joan Weber, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

Judge Joan P. Weber has been a trial judge in San Diego since 1990. She served as President, Vice President and Board member of the California Judges Association from 2012-2016. She also served a one-year term as an advisory member of the California Judicial Council. She sits as a trial judge doing primarily criminal trials. On the San Diego Superior Court, she has served as the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Courts, Supervising Judge of the North County Court and Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division. She

is a frequent instructor for California Judicial Education programs with an emphasis on death penalty trials and how to preside over high-profile cases. She is also a member of the American Law Institute. She has written many mock trials for children based on famous children’s movies such as Harry Potter, Toy Story and Star Wars and historical events such as the Salem Witch Trials. Teachers and students are using the mock trials all over the United States. She has received the Pursuit of Justice Award from the Tort, Trial and Insurance Section of the American Bar Association, the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award from California Women Lawyers, the Outstanding Jurist Award from the San Diego County Bar, and the Witkin Award from the San Diego Law Library Foundation for Excellence in Judicial Adjudication.

Her prior legal experience before she became a judge includes serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego and as an associate for a civil litigation law firm in Phoenix, Arizona. She started her legal career as a law clerk for Ninth Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace. Judge Weber received her J.D. with highest distinction from the University of Arizona and her B.A. cum laude from the Ohio State University.

Judge Weber is married to a retired labor and employment lawyer, Ted Scott. She has two daughters, Allison Scott Peer and Katherine Scott Arbuckle. Allison is an attorney in San Diego and Katherine is a teacher in Baltimore.