



Appellate Law: Strategies and Approaches

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

**Approved for 3.0 CLE credits (1.5 Law & Legal Procedure
+ 0.5 Ethics + 1.0 Ethics – Equity)**

\$129 - Standard

\$99 - New Members*

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

**WEBCAST
ONLY**

DESCRIPTION

This session examines how implicit and explicit bias can appear in legal writing and advocacy, guiding attorneys to recognize harmful language patterns and understand how recent Washington Supreme Court decisions address systemic and institutional bias. It also provides practical appellate insights, helping trial counsel make strong records, preserve issues for review, and evaluate whether pursuing an appeal aligns with ethical and strategic considerations.

FACULTY

Melissa Lee – *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle*

Jessica Levin – *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle*

Catherine W Smith – *Smith Goodfriend, P.S., Seattle*

Howard Goodfriend – *Smith Goodfriend, P.S., Seattle*

Phil Talmadge – *Talmadge Fitzpatrick PLLC, Seattle*

SCHEDULE

12:40 p.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

12:55 p.m. > Welcome and Introductions

- **Jennifer Holderman** – *Washington State Bar Association, Seattle*

1:00 p.m. > What Trial Counsel Needs to Know About Appeals

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

During this session, presenters will provide practical advice for trial counsel on making a record and preserving arguments for appeal.

- **Catherine W Smith** – *Smith Goodfriend, P.S., Seattle*
- **Howard Goodfriend** – *Smith Goodfriend, P.S., Seattle*

2:00 p.m. > Avoiding Implicit Bias in Appellate Advocacy

60 minutes, 1.0 credit Ethics - Equity

As lawyers, we want to ensure that what we write is clear, understood, and free of unintended messages. In addition, as officers of the court, we play a role in eradicating bias within the legal system. This session will explore how to identify implicit and explicit bias in language and examine recent Washington Supreme Court jurisprudence to better understand how our state supreme court is addressing and accounting for implicit bias as well as institutional and systemic racism.

- **Melissa Lee** – *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle*
- **Jessica Levin** – *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle*

3:00 p.m. > BREAK

3:15 p.m. > When is an Appeal Appealing

60 minutes, 0.5 credits L&LP, 0.5 Ethics

During this session, former Washington State Supreme Court Justice will delve into the process when considering whether or not to pursue an appeal. Ethical, legal and practical considerations must be explored, supporting long-range goals and strategies to address your client's needs.

- **Phil Talmadge** – *Talmadge Fitzpatrick PLLC, Seattle*

4:15 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

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REGISTRATION

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PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#27650 WEB, attend via webcast, 10/12/26**

☐ \$129 - Standard

☐ \$99 - New Members*

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