

LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

November 3-4, 2022 - New York City

CLE credit for attending this Symposium will be available and provided by Empire Justice Center. Empire Justice Center has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York.



Thursday, November 3, 9am – 4pm

Jay Suites, 515 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor

Nationally known jury and trial experts Malekpour & Ball Litigation Strategy will host a day-long program on utilizing focus groups for case assessments and jury selection. Focus group research is a valuable tool to learn how jurors react to the issues and work towards decisions. Attendees will start the day by watching a focus group in action led by Artemis Malekpour, J.D, M.H.A. and David Ball, Ph.D. In the afternoon Artemis and David will lead an interactive discussion on how you can use focus groups in helping you prepare for your case.

Learn more about [Malekpour & Ball](#).

Friday, November 4, 8am – 4:15pm

The Manhattan Penthouse, 80 Fifth Avenue

- **8:30am - 9:30am**
Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury
Presented by Brian D. Greenwald, MD
JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

Dr. Greenwald will provide an overview of what attorneys need to know about how doctors diagnose, evaluate, and treat a patient with traumatic brain injury/concussive brain injury. This session will be moderated by Kenneth Goldblatt.

- **9:30am - 10:30am**
The Use and Admissibility of MRI and DTI
Presented by Kenneth B. Goldblatt
Goldblatt & Associates, PC

Clients undergo MRI. One of the series within the MRI is called Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI).

DTI is very sensitive to the damage to microscopic brain tissue, which is the underlying injury in a concussion. Defense attorneys have tried nationally to keep it from being used during trial because it debunks arguments that the client is not hurt. Ken has experience utilizing DTI during trial. He will discuss DTI, what it is, what the findings may mean and how to use it during trial, as well as how to defend against attempts by defense attorneys to preclude it.

- **10:45am – 11:45am**

- **Conducting Focus Groups**

- Presented by Gregory Sheindlin
Sheindlin Law Firm

Gregory will expand on the lessons learned from day one focus group with Malekpour & Ball Litigation Strategy. He will discuss how to conduct and use the information from focus groups to improve your case preparation and presentation.

- **12:30pm - 1:30pm**

- **The Economic Damage of TBI**

- Presented by Andy Siegel, Esq.
Siegel & Coonerty, LLP

Andy will present with the focus on various items of economic damage associated with traumatic brain injury and how to utilize proof at trial.

- **1:30pm – 2:30pm**

- **Autonomic Nervous System Injuries Following TBI**

- Presented by Michael Ronemus
Ronemus & Vilensky, LLP

TBI can impact multiple organs throughout the body, which at first glance, would not seem related to the injury. The autonomic nervous system which regulates the non-voluntary functions of our body can also sustain injury from a TBI – Dysautonomia - which can cause serious consequences. Physical problems can be varied and include such things as blood pressure irregularities and vestibular dysfunction, inability to visually focus, problems swallowing and digestive problems, fecal incontinence, urinary incontinence, inability to empty the bladder, spine pain, sexual dysfunction, menstrual irregularity and even symptoms consistent with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) including temperature irregularities and discoloration of the limbs are among those that are caused by a TBI. Michael will present on these impacts, Dysautonomia and the importance of working with a doctor who is familiar with Dysautonomia so that all the client's injuries resulting from TBI can be presented and related.

- **3:45pm - 4:15pm**

- **Putting Together a TBI Trial**

- Presented by Bruce Stern
Stark & Stark, Attorneys at Law

Session information to come.

Speaker Information



David Ball, PhD.
Malekpour & Ball Litigation Strategy

Born in NY's Appalachian Mountains, lived on farm/applejack distillery with my bootlegging granddaddy, daddy, and uncles until the revenuers chased us clean out of the mountains and all the way down to Stamford, CT the year after WWII ended. Ran a lemonade stand and once mowed someone's lawn. Drove taxis in high school. In high school came in second for class clown behind Charlie Karp, damn him, played football for one day, marched off to master science and engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic, avoided ROTC, and eventually decided to leave engineering so started IN physics until the Dean gently observed that there are no B-minus physicists, so I drifted off to Alfred University in western NY state where I managed to drop out of pre-med because bio labs stink, continued to avoid ROTC, went on the first anti-Viet Nam war march, fell headlong into English lit, got permanently caught by theater, during the folk scare mastered most of the strings of a guitar and had the world's second-best jug band, The Green Hornet and his Shazam Singers. Then grad school training for theater, ran off to save the world with Peace Corps in Afghanistan, while in Kabul mastered the rest of the guitar's strings, returned to study more theater at D.C.'s Catholic U, Ph.D.'d at U of MN, spent a decade writing and directing at the Guthrie Theater, hid out for a bucolic year at Lawrence University in WI, then taught for a decade at Carnegie-Mellon's professional theater conservatory where our students headed out to be brilliant and famous, followed by six or seven years of running Drama at Duke where students did the same, then I inadvertently began a trial-consulting career as the only one in NC or the surrounding states – a career which seems to be continuing, wrote some books along the way, turned 80 June 2022 about which I complain upon request, continue to respect and be astonished by trial lawyers more every day, still write for theater and have a screenplay under option, am again trying to save the world in a variety of ways though I'm lately been wondering if it should be saved, live in Durham, NC with lovely and amazing Susan in a century-old house, no cat/dog/indoor bird but a couple mice, plan never to see the inside of another airplane or hotel room, still avoiding ROTC, can't find my guitar, eternally grateful for my trial-consulting partner, Artemis Malekpour, and have noted well that the view from 80 is splendid.



Kenneth B. Goldblatt
Goldblatt & Associates P.C.

Kenneth B. Goldblatt, is the proprietor of Goldblatt and Associates, P.C., located in Mohegan Lake, New York. He concentrates his practice representing individuals who have sustained orthopedic and traumatic brain injury due to the negligence of others. He is a BIA Certified Brain Injury Specialist and is the former Chair of American Association for Justice Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, serves on their Executive Board and is also an active member in several other leading brain injury associations. Ken has chaired several CLE's on brain injury for the New York State Trial Lawyers and lectures nationally to trial lawyers, judges, and representatives of the insurance industry on brain injury litigation. He has also authored articles offering guidance to attorneys in litigating brain injury cases.



Brian D. Greenwald, MD
JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

Dr. Brain Greenwald is currently the Medical Director of the Center for Brain Injuries and the Associate Medical Director of JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. A professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Dr. Greenwald is also a professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Hackensack-Meridian School of Medicine. The Director for the Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, and the Medical

Director for the JFK Johnson Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems of care grant funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Dr. Greenwald has been the recipient of multiple awards for his clinical work, research work, and teaching. Dr. Greenwald has published multiple articles and book chapters in the areas of brain injury rehabilitation. Currently, he is involved in several research studies to improve the care of brain injury survivors.



Artemis Malekpour, J.D., M.H.A.
Malekpour & Ball Litigation Strategy

Artemis H. Malekpour is a partner in the litigation consulting firm of Malekpour & Ball. With a background in psychology and psychiatric research, she specializes in focus groups, case strategy, damages and jury selection. Artemis earned her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Healthcare Administration from UNC's School of Public Health. After several years of working in the Department of Psychiatry at UNC Hospitals, she

went on to receive her law degree with honors from Duke University.

Artemis has consulted on a wide variety of cases across the country. Through years of conducting jury research, observing deliberations and moderating discussions, she has a particular knack for identifying potential landmines, analyzing each case from the decision-makers' perspective. Authoring numerous papers and chapters throughout her career, Artemis' most recent project, Damages Evolving, written with co-authors David Ball, Courtney Rowley and Nick Rowley, was released in the Spring of 2022 through Trial Guides.



Michael Ronemus
Ronemus & Vilensky, LLP

Michael B. Ronemus has extensive experience in litigation covering a wide range of legal areas. Because of his medical school education, he is uniquely qualified in the areas of medical malpractice and personal injury. In his more than 30 years of practice, he has achieved an impressive record of success, having tried more than a hundred cases to verdict and winning millions in compensation for

his clients. After earning a Bachelor of Science from the University of Colorado in 1977, he attended Vanderbilt University Medical School and then enrolled in the New York University School of Law where he received his J.D. in 1983. Before becoming a partner with Ronemus & Vilensky, Mr.

Ronemus was an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn, New York, and he started his own practice in 1990. Mr. Ronemus and Robert Vilensky have practiced as partners of their firm for 30 years. Mr. Ronemus has lectured throughout the country on topics including motor vehicle law, traumatic brain injury, insurance law, negligent security cases, and medical malpractice. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, surfing, golfing and spending time with his children and his grandchildren.



Gregory Scheindlin
Scheindlin Law Firm

Gregory Scheindlin is a plaintiffs-only attorney, in practice for over 20 years. His experience includes being an assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office, in-house trial counsel for Chubb Insurance, and now, private practice. Gregory has extensive experience with handling personal injury and criminal matters involving brain injuries and diseases. Focus groups have become a key part of his case preparation and presentation.



Andrew W. Siegel, Esq.
Siegel & Coonerty, LLP

Andrew W. Siegel is the founding and senior litigating partner of Siegel & Coonerty, LLP, a personal injury law firm located in New York City. He litigates a wide range of matters involving serious bodily injury, but has a special compassionate interest in representing survivors of traumatic brain injury. Andy recognizes that “fair compensation” for the unquantifiable losses brought about by brain injury can never truly be achieved. Even the **43 MILLION DOLLARS** a jury awarded one of his TBI client’s for her conscious pain and suffering cannot tell the entire story. Committed to his causes, Andy is on the Board of Directors of the New York State Trial Lawyer’s Association as well as the Brain Injury Association of New York State. His many trial successes have repeatedly placed those outcomes among the “Top 100 Verdicts” reported in the state annually. Andy has been honored as a Super Lawyer selection continuously since 2010.

Andy is the author of *The Tug Wyler Mystery Series*, a collection of emotionally charged and thought-provoking medical-legal thrillers. With ***Suzy’s Case***, his debut novel, Andy was able to put a human face on a reality he knows so well from his work life: the intensity of the experience of TBI survivors and their families. *Suzy’s Case* was optioned by CBS Television, was a People.com Best Beach Read, and was a Suspense Magazine Best Book.

Andy also wrote *Second Impact – The Ray Ciancaglini Story*. Ray is a former professional boxer and award-winning concussion awareness activist who sustained a brain injury in the ring. Andy wrote the novel to educate and protect today’s youth athletes from the harm that can result by “playing through” a concussion. All proceeds from the sale of the book are donated to Ray’s non-profit organization, thesecondimpact.com



Bruce Stern

Stark & Stark, Attorneys at Law

Bruce Stern is with Stark & Stark Attorneys at Law. An expert Civil Trial Attorney as certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, he is also a member of the firm's Accident & Personal Injury practice. Bruce also served as the President of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) from 2019-2020. He is also a past President of the New Jersey Association for Justice.

Bruce specializes his practice in representing the victims of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and wrongful death. In July 2004, Bruce began publishing the Traumatic Brain Injury Law Blog as a way to share his knowledge as a brain injury lawyer. Additionally, he is the author of numerous articles and a frequent lecturer on the subject of traumatic brain injury litigation, evidence and trial techniques. He also co-authored a book entitled "Litigating Brain Injuries" published by Thomson Reuters and a chapter entitled "Brain Injuries" which is included in AAJ's Litigation Tort Case Series, published by AAJ Press.

Financial Hardship Policy is available upon request.