



2026 Program

8:50-9:50- The Rope and The Psychology of Murder

In Alfred Hitchcock's *The Rope* he explores the role of ideas of human superiority in justifying the murder of lesser intelligence. This movie sets a stage for understanding the motives for murder of Leopold and Loeb. In both *The Rope* and the facts of Leopold and Loeb, the German philosopher Nietzsche plays a role. This program will look at the allusions to Nietzsche in *The Rope* and the actions of Leopold and Loeb in their desire to create the perfect murder. Attorneys will discuss and explore how philosophies of human superiority and concepts that create class or societal justification for abuse impact the law and ultimately promote individual justifications for murder as well as national policies for the same.

9:55-10:55 -The State as a Moral Person and the Role of a Lawyer in a Corrupt State”

Rousseau’s social contract theory indicates things are great so long as the State acts consistent with the General Will. This program will focus on the second part of Rousseau’s discussion in regards to the rights of the people when the State is not moral and acts inconsistent with the General Will. It will also look at the role of the lawyer in such a state by way of preserving the social contract.

Attendees should review Rousseau’s *Social Contract*, George Orwell’s *1984*, Steve Moore’s *V for Vendetta*, G. K. Chesterton’s *The Man Who was Thursday*, and Sinclair Lewis’ *It Can’t Happen Here*.

11:00-12:00- "Bridge of Spies, Valkyrie, Nuremberg: The Pursuit of Justice and War,"

This program will look at justice during war. The three topics to be explored related to pre-war, during the conflict, and law as a manner of resolving societal concerns after the conflict. The program will look at the role of lawyers in the process of providing due process, evidence, and advocacy at a time when individual liberties may be in conflict with the best interests of the state. Attendees will want to explore the movies “Bridge of Spies

**** LUNCH BREAK ****

12:50-1:50- "Justice and Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café."

Fannie Flagg's novel turned movie will be the backdrop for a discussion on a variety of legal themes relating to the law and the administration of justice. The program will specifically cover numerous elements of Model Rule 8.4(g) which indicated that a lawyer should not harass or discriminate based upon a list of categories such as evidence, litigation, and the elimination of bias.

1:55-2:55- "The Restoring Balance "While Mortals Sleep"

Kurt Vonnegut tells of a season run commercially amuck in his satirical and fun story, *While Mortals Sleep*. This story will provide the backdrop for a discussion of how lawyers play the vital role in society of helping to restore the balance in the administration of justice directly or indirectly, as the case maybe or the circumstances may require. This program will review ethical rule 8.4 and concepts from the Preamble to the Model Rules.

3:00-4:00- "Popular Participation in the Legal System: Emma Goldman and Anarchy."

The preamble to the Model Rules discusses the need for "popular participation" in the legal system. It also indicates that lawyers should work to improve deficiencies in the legal system. Emma Goldman, an active and outspoken activist and anarchist argued that the populous should abandon the governing systems in the United States. This program will look at the writings of Goldman and explore her role in bringing to awareness the deficiencies in the legal system.

Biography

Travis Marker, the founder and director of the Scrivener's Quill: A Center for Lawyers and Literature, graduated from Weber State University with a double major in English and History from Weber State University. Reading books helped him survive law school. He received his law degree and certificate in dispute resolution from Willamette University College of law. Mr. Marker traveled to Australia where he received a Master of Laws in dispute resolution from Bond University. Mr. Marker is the most active scholar presenting CLE on literature's application to the practice of law. He has presented to hundreds of attorneys throughout the United States on the subject.

Description

The Scrivener's Quill focuses on literature and the law and was inspired by Judge Gordon Low of the First District Court in Cache Valley Utah. Judge Low spoke of lawyers as wordsmiths and their obligation to read and study great literature for the purpose of improving the application and quality of law.