

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ON JURY TRIALS

The Civil Jury Project at New York University School of Law is the nation’s only non-profit academic institution dedicated exclusively to studying and bettering the civil jury and raising public awareness of its dramatic decline. In pursuit of that objective, we have delivered dozens of presentations at events and conferences around the country. These presentations can be replicated at upcoming judicial conferences, bar meetings, or meetings of the general public.

The first program is a debate between Professor Renée Lerner of George Washington University Law School and our Executive Director, Steve Susman, on the proposition “Resolved: the Resolution of Civil Disputes by Jury Trial is Obsolete.” This debate is suitable for lawyers and non-lawyers alike and was conducted at the American Constitution Society’s 2017 annual conference. A video of that event is available [here](https://www.acslaw.org/news/video/resolved-the-resolution-of-civil-disputes-by-jury-trial-is-obsolete).

The second presentation, suitable for an audience of trial lawyers, is called “Innovating on Jury Trial” and reviews nine innovations that that can make jury trials faster, cheaper, and more accurate. It is presented as a discussion between Judge Thomas Marten of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas and Steve Susman. The innovations covered include: attorney conducted voir dire; trial time limits; substantive preliminary instructions; juror-posed questions; substantive questionnaires before voir dire; full opening statements before voir dire; interim arguments by counsel; calling expert witnesses back-to-back; jury discussion of evidence before final deliberation. We offer a summary of the different innovations, the legal support for their use, and empirical studies on its popularity. Write-ups on each of these are available [here](http://civiljuryproject.law.nyu.edu/trial-innovations/).

The third presentation is designed for trial judges and is a presentation by Judge William Young of the United States District Court for Massachusetts and Steve Susman entitled “How Judges Can Improve Jury Trials.” It explores proactive ways judges can encourage and better civil jury trials. This presentation was given at the recent Retreat of the federal trial judges of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Susman’s prepared text can be found [here](http://civiljuryproject.law.nyu.edu/how-judges-can-further-the-value-of-the-civil-jury-trial/).

If you would like the Civil Jury Project to present at your upcoming conference or meeting, please contact our administrator Kaitlin Villanueva at [kv20@nyu.edu](mailto:kv20@nyu.edu). We will need at least a few weeks to organize, so please do let us know of your interest as soon as possible.