



Ever So Speedy Trials

Don't be so lazy. In the time it takes you to read this column, you could do something really valuable—like pick a jury.

That could be an exaggeration (unless you're an especially slow reader). But statistics nationwide reveal that the time given by courts to question potential jurors is shrinking. Stories abound of lawyers being told to complete all questioning in less than half an hour, and sometimes 15 minutes. And that is while cases are growing—not declining—in complexity.

Our cover story this month takes on that question. **Howard Snyder** initially wrote his article through the lens of a medical-malpractice case. But this phenomenon is occurring across practice areas, and across the country. At June's State Bar convention, a few panels of lawyers, including trial lawyer Michael Tigar, told their own tales of abbreviated questioning.

In August, I had the opportunity to hear veteran broadcaster **Bill Kurtis** speak about the state of the journalism business. He drew laughs and chagrin when he compared the definition of phrases today with their original meaning.

"When we said we had to interrupt a program for breaking news," Kurtis explained, "it meant we had breaking news. Now it means we have to tell you what we already told you, but in a different way."

"When we said we had a news team on the way, it meant we had a news team on the way. Today, it means we just saw a news story broadcast by our competitor, and we've called in the night truck guy to get in right away."


And when we used to say picking a jury was seen as integral to the right to a fair trial, that's what we meant. Our cover story asks if that's still what we mean.

Ethics and security round out this month's articles. Together, they ask, "How secure are you in the decisions you make in and about your practice?"

- **Richard Alcorn** examines some thorny issues regarding the testimony of expert witnesses. Landmines await the unwary lawyer in that area, and we expect this article will help your presentation.
- Keeping your information secure is the goal of two other articles. **Eric Van Buskirk** walks us through the dangers of inadvertently revealing client and firm information. Metadata, phishing, spyware—he explains it all. And **Kay**

Cooper tells us a humorous yet frightening story of an e-mail gone awry. We've all done it or imagined that we have, and she explains the ethics of the situation—sweaty palms and all.

Finally, we bring you Part II of our stories on **malpractice insurance**. The January Supreme Court deadline for insurance disclosure looms, and we thought you could use some more specific information. So we contacted more than a dozen carriers and brokers, gave them some lawyer hypos, and asked them to give us their hypothetical premiums. We hope this story gives you some ballpark figures that can assist you when you complete your application and speak with your carrier.

If you have more ideas for articles that could help you in your insurance search—or in any area of practice—contact me at Tim.Eigo@staff.azbar.org. 



Tim Eigo

Editor

TIM EIGO

Tim.Eigo@staff.azbar.org

Art Director

KAREN HOLUB

Production Coordinator

LESLIE ROSS

Contributing Writer

MIRA RADOVICH

Communications Assistant

KATE CORTEZ

Advertising Sales Manager

DREW WILLIAMSON

(602) 340-7230

Drew.Williamson@staff.azbar.org

Editorial Board

RANDALL H. WARNER, *CHAIR*

DAVID H. BENTON

CATHERINE BRIXEN

KELLY J. FLOOD

EMILY JOHNSTON

BRIAN D. KAISER

JOSEPH A. KANEFIELD

FAITH C. KLEPPER

JENNIFER M. MOTT

PATRICIA A. NIGRO

MARK D. SAMSON

KEITH A. SWISHER

ELIZABETH WARNER

DAVID D. WEINZWEIG

M. APRIL WYNNE

JEFFREY A. ZICK

Addresses

4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288
(602) 252-4804

320 S. Convent, Tucson, AZ 85701-2215
(520) 623-9944

1-866-48-AZBAR

(Toll-free outside Maricopa County)

www.myazbar.org

Statements or opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the State Bar of Arizona, its officers, Board of Governors, the Editorial Board, or staff. Although advertising copy is reviewed, no endorsement of any product or service offered by any advertisement is intended or implied by publication.

Arizona Attorney (ISSN 1040-4090) is published monthly, except bimonthly, July/August, by the State Bar of Arizona, located at 4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288. Periodicals Postage paid in Phoenix, Arizona, and additional mailing offices. Subscription price: \$50 per year; all members except retired: included in dues; \$5.00 per copy. Copyright 2006 by the State Bar of Arizona. All rights reserved. Any copying of material herein, in whole or in part, and by any means, without written permission, is prohibited. Requests for such permission or any correspondence for *Arizona Attorney* should be sent to *Arizona Attorney*, POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Arizona Attorney*, 4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6288.

VOLUME 43, NO. 2

