



NEW YORK
CITY BAR

THIS PROGRAM IS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AWAY

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009 FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION
42 WEST 44TH STREET
(BETWEEN FIFTH AVENUE AND AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS (SIXTH AVENUE))

IN COOPERATION WITH



STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND: CROSS-CULTURAL ISSUES IN THE COURTS

What does “the rule of law” mean in today’s multi-cultural society? Should immigrants be held to the same standards as everyone else, on the theory of “When in Rome . . . ?” Does “cultural evidence” have a place in the courtroom?

*In a growing number of cases in state and federal courts across the country, immigrant defendants are pleading “**the cultural defense**” – invoking the customs and traditions of their homelands to explain their actions. At the same time, “**cultural evidence**” is finding its way into more and more civil cases – in actions ranging from divorce and child abuse/neglect, to personal injury and other torts, and civil rights and commercial litigation. Even when not raised per se, culture plays a role in many cases, both civil and criminal.*

*In this engaging and highly interactive program, audience members will use **hand-held technology to “vote” on the outcome** of vignettes drawn from controversial real-life cases “ripped from the headlines” and presented by an inter-disciplinary panel of some of the nation’s leading cross-cultural experts.*

Do the adages that “all men are presumed to know the law” and “ignorance of the law is no defense” apply to recent immigrants? Should immigrants be held to the same standards as everyone else?

You be the judge.

Welcome remarks:

Patricia M. Hynes
President, New York City Bar

Moderator:

Professor Jonathan Turley

George Washington University School of Law
MSNBC Commentator/Analyst
Contributor, *USA Today*

Panelists/Speakers:

Professor Alison Dundes Renteln

Professor of Political Science & Anthropology – University of Southern California
Lawyer and Author, *The Cultural Defense*

Rene L. Valladares

Chief of the Trial/Appellate Division
Office of the Federal Public Defender – Las Vegas
Editor/Contributor, *Cultural Issues in Criminal Defense*

Mark J. Mills, J.D., M.D.

Nationally-renowned Forensic Psychiatrist

Hon. Bernice B. Donald

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
Secretary of the American Bar Association
Frequent Consultant on International Rule of Law

Program Chair:

Hon. Delissa A. Ridgway
U.S. Court of International Trade

Program Co-Chair:

Lori S. Sherman
Secretary, Council on International Affairs

Book Signing:

Professor Renteln will be signing copies of her award-winning book, *The Cultural Defense*, following the program. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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MICHAEL H. BYOWITZ, CHAIR

CO-SPONSORED BY: CRIMINAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE, THOMAS CURRAN, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL COURTS, ROGER L. STAVIS, CHAIR; TORT LITIGATION COMMITTEE, MICHAEL KATZ, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, STEVEN M. KAHANER, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, MEGAN M. MOLONEY, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND COMPARATIVE LAW, MARK A. MEYER, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE LAW, KEN K. ANDER, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS, MARK R. SHULMAN, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, ARTHUR W. ROVINE, CHAIR; COMMITTEE ON PRO BONO AND LEGAL SERVICES, MADELEINE SCHACHTER, CHAIR; COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, KAREN J. FREEDMAN, CHAIR; VANCE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, ANTONIA E. STOLPER, CHAIR

THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please register at www.nycbar.org (go to “EventsCalendar” and June 8) or send an email to VMeehan@WLRK.com