

# Stress and the Individual Litigant: Managing the Practical and Emotional Aspects of Litigation and Exploring Alternatives

**Date and Time:** Monday, November 7, 2011, 5:30 - 7:30pm

**Location:** Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, 450 Lexington Ave (at 45th Street), New York, NY 10017

Being a party to a lawsuit, whether as plaintiff or defendant, is intellectually challenging and emotionally difficult. Lawsuits are distracting, draining and expensive. They can distort the personal lives of litigants, damage relationships and reputations, and interfere with plans for the future. Worrying about all these matters can be very stressful. In addition, legal language can be unfamiliar and intimidating to people who are not used to the legal system, and the workings of the courts are often slow, convoluted and opaque – and often unfair.

The panelists, each of whom has experience as a practicing artist or arts administrator, will discuss the practical and psychological aspects of being an individual or small business litigant and will provide tools to help make it through the process intact. The panel will touch on alternative dispute resolution methods and resources as well providing an overview of issues and concerns that can commonly lead to disputes and conflicts in the arts and entertainment field.

Moderator:

**Benjamin J. Brandow, Esq.**  
Assistant Director of Legal Services  
Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Panelists:

**Elena M. Paul, Esq.**  
Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts  
**Jeffrey M. Dine, Esq.**  
Litigation Attorney, Seward & Kissel LLP  
**Laurie R. Kuslansky, Ph.D.**  
Senior Jury Consultant, TrialGraphix  
**Peter H. Woodin, Esq.**  
Mediator and Arbitrator, JAMS

**\*2 CLE Credits: 1 Skills, 0.5 Ethics and 0.5 Areas of Professional Practice. (This program is transitional, thus newly admitted attorneys are also qualified to receive CLE.)**

**1. Registration fees** (there is an additional late fee of \$10 if you register the day of the class):

- \$100 for VLA Members
- \$20 for Artists & Full-Time Students (with valid student ID)
- \$150 for Non-Members
- \$50 for VLA YAM's (Young Associate Members) and All You Can Learn Pass Holders

All registration fees are non-refundable. Please note you are not registered until full payment is received. To apply for a full or partial CLE scholarship, please visit our **Financial Aid Policy Guidelines website:** <http://www.vlany.org/education/financialaid.php>

**2. Registration information:**

Your Name (Ms., Mr., Mrs.): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Payment information:**

- Check Enclosed
- Please charge my Mastercard / VISA / AmEx / Discover

Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number/Money Order Number: # \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. How did you hear about this event?**

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For questions please contact **Benjamin J. Brandow, Esq.**, at [bbrandow@vlany.org](mailto:bbrandow@vlany.org) or 212-319-2787 ext. 14.