



Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of Michigan

WASHTENAW COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645

DONALD E. SHELTON
Circuit Judge

(734) 222-3399
FAX (734) 222-3362

September 13, 2008

Mr. Gary Anderson
1540 Chestnut Street
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I just want to take a moment to tell you how much your "Clarence Darrow's Judicial Perspective" program was enjoyed by all of the attendees at the Michigan Judges Association Annual Conference.

Judges can be a tough audience and are not easily impressed. We listen to attorneys all day and listening to the arguments of a long dead attorney would seem to be a real "busman's holiday" and not something that would interest trial judges. Perhaps for those reasons, your performance took everyone by surprise.

All of the otherwise stoic judges were enrapt by your recreation of four of Clarence Darrow's most famous arguments. The reactions of the judges began with the recognition that it was a learning experience. "I didn't know that", went some of the first comments I heard. Then the reactions turned almost to awe at both the depth and the compassion of Darrow's eloquence. By the second trial episode, however, the judges were enjoying the sheer entertainment of watching you so masterfully bring Darrow to life.

Integrating four of our members in the roles of judges in the four trial episodes was very effective. It was fascinating to discover, first hand in my case, how the judges' rulings, behavior, and trial management efforts (or lack thereof) impacted the trial strategies. This *in-the-moment* realism allowed the audience to see our real life colleagues in those roles and thus put ourselves in the positions of the historic judges and feel how they must have felt when they watched and listened to Darrow.

As I said, judges are not easily impressed. The unanimous standing ovation by the Michigan Judges Association for your performance as Clarence Darrow speaks for itself.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Shelton
Circuit Judge