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the FORECAST

A Newsletter of the National Association of Forensic Economics

Features: pg 6-8
Rotating Columns: pg 8-11

NAFE Events: pg 12-15

Featured pictures throughout: 2017 NAFE Board of Directors Meeting & the Missouri Valley Economic Association Meeting

President'sLetter

Mike Nieswiadomy, President, NAFE
michael.nieswiadomy@unt.edu

Dear NAFE members:

We are in the last quarter of 2017 and preparing for an exciting 2018. NAFE sponsored a reception at the annual meeting of the Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions (AIRLEAP) held in St. Charles, Missouri, on October 13 and 14. Several NAFE members participated in this meeting, which featured guest lectures by former head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Erica Goshen, and George DeMartino, who is co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Professional Economic Ethics and was a participant in NAFE's special session on ethics in forensic economics held at the 2012 ASSA meeting. The NAFE Midwestern meetings were held in Kansas City, MO, Oct. 26-28. NAFE held one session at this meeting and sponsored the annual President's reception. We are preparing for the Southern Economic Association meetings in Tampa, FL, November 17-19, and the ASSA meetings in Philadelphia, PA, January 5-7, 2018. As I mentioned previously, a NAFE and ASSA highlight will be Kenneth Feinberg's, Esq. address to NAFE members in a special session, Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, at 2:30 pm. This will give us a great opportunity to discuss some of the big forensic economic topics of our time and receive insight from Mr. Feinberg on how these issues play out in court. NAFE is planning sessions at the Eastern Economic Association meetings March 2-3, 2018. Please read this issue of *The Forecast* for more details about all of these conferences.

The NAFE Board of Directors will meet in Philadelphia on January 5, 2018. The Board will review committee recommendations to make some minor modifications to NAFE's SEP/PPP. The board will also review the NAFE-L list serve committee's recommendation. If you have any thoughts for the board to consider, please let me know. You should have received your election ballots for NAFE Board officers. Please vote! I want to thank David Rosenbaum and Bill Brandt for their service to the Board. Also at the ASSA meetings, on January 5, 2018, there will be a membership meeting at 5:00 pm followed by a reception at 6:00 pm.

On a personal note, I hope that you will take time to visit some of the great historical and cultural sites of the City of Brotherly Love. I can personally recommend a visit to Independence Hall, the Declaration of Independence and the Liberty Bell and of course, as economists, we should tour the Philadelphia Mint. It is impossible to mention all of the great museums, but I plan on seeing the Benjamin Franklin Museum on this trip. Finally, Philly native Marc Weinstein has promised fabulous weather for us in January. He will give a free Philly cheese steak to anyone who can outrun him up Rocky's steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. •

Photos from the NAFE BOD meeting:
1) Bill Brandt, David Rosenbaum, & Steve Shapiro
2) David Rosenbaum, Bill Brandt, Mike Nieswiadomy, & David Tucek.

NAFE℠ National Association of Forensic Economics

Please send comments, suggestions, and news items for *The Forecast* to the Production Editor, Nancy Eldredge, at the addresses at the right. Submissions from NAFE members are encouraged, and submissions guidelines are available online at http://nafe.net/TheForecast, or by contacting the editor, Lane Hudgins, at lane@lh-analysis.com.

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In This Issue

1 • President's Letter, Mike Nieswiadomy

Member News

3 • From the Executive Director, Marc Weinstein
3 • Welcome New Members!
3 • FYI
4-5 • The Forecast Plays 20 Questions with David Rosenbaum

Features

6-8 • What is AIRLEAP? by Steven Payson

Rotating Columns

8 • From the Trenches
Did we Write That? by Robert Thornton & John Ward
9-11 • Expert Opinion: Victor Matheson, Kristin Kucsma & Frank Tinari. Edited by David Schap

Announcement

11 • Distinguished Speaker: Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq. "Unconventional responses to unique catastrophes: Tailoring the law to meet the challenges"

Meeting & Regional Updates

12 • Featured Meeting City
13-15 • Meetings & Regional Updates
15 • The NAFE International History by John Ward

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From the Executive Director

Marc Weinstein, Executive Director, NAFE

NAFE Board of Directors Initiatives 2017

The National Association of Forensic Economics' Board of Directors (BOD) consists of seven voting members, with staggered terms, elected by the membership. The seven members are as follows:

President – Michael Nieswiadomy
Vice President East – Christopher W. young
Vice President Midwest – David I. Rosenbaum
Vice President South – Gilbert Mathis
Vice President West – William G. Brandt
Vice President At-Large – Scott Gilbert
Vice President At Large – David Tucek

In addition to the seven voting members, attendance at the Board Meetings typically consists of several of the following:

Executive Director – Marc A. Weinstein
Past President – Lawrence Spizman
President Elect – currently vacant
Executive Editor JFE – Steven J. Shapiro
Executive Editor JFE – James E. Ciecka
Managing Editor JFE – Kurt V. Krueger
Editor, *The Forecast* – Lane Hudgins
Administrator – Nancy Eldredge

Collectively, the NAFE Board of Directors, et al meet twice annually in-person to manage association business. The Winter Board Meeting is typically held in conjunction with the ASSA in January of each year, and the Summer Board Meeting is generally held the third weekend in July usually in Chicago, Illinois.

In 2017, the NAFE Board of Directors continued their pursuit at *Promoting the Advancement of Forensic Economics* by performing the following:

- Organizing approximately six regional, national, or international sponsored meetings per year (ASSA, Winter (Caribbean), Eastern, International (Europe), Western, Southern and/or Missouri Valley). This year, the BOD planned seven meetings including the ASSA in Chicago, IL; the Winter in Cancun Mexico; the Eastern in New York, NY; the International in Milan, Italy; the Western in San Diego, CA; the Missouri Valley in Kansas City, MO; and, the Southern in Tampa, FL
- Encouraging submissions to the *Journal of Forensic Economics*
- Presenting quarterly issues of the beautifully designed and informative newsletter, *The Forecast*
- Lobbying on behalf of the practice of forensic economics by researching specific issues relating to the "Fair Calculations in Civil Damages Act of 2016" (S.3489 and H.R. 6417)
- Reviewing and updating the NAFE Statement of Ethical Principles and Principles of Professional Practice (SEP/PPP)
- Analyzing and improving the NAFE-L email list serve, a valuable resource to our members
- Promoting and marketing NAFE's benefits by sponsoring receptions at various other economic organizations
- Seeking synergies with various other academic/professional organizations
- Evaluating the feasibility of obtaining a stand-alone *Journal of Economic Literature (JEL)* code for *Forensic Economics*. *JEL* codes are used to classify journal articles, books, and other publications in economics. Currently forensic economics is included under category K1: *Basic Areas of Law in sub-category* K13: *Tort Law and Product Liability * Forensic Economics.* The portion of the *JEL* Classification System that includes forensic economics can be found in the *JEL* as follows:

K. Law and Economics
K1 Basic Areas of Law
K10 General
K11 Property Law
K12 Contract Law
K13 Tort Law and Product Liability • Forensic Economics
K14 Criminal Law
K19 Other

On behalf of the entire membership, I would like to say that I am extremely grateful for the leadership and initiative of the collective BOD and their wonderful efforts in 2017. I especially want to thank Dave Rosenbuam and Bill Brandt for their three years of commitment and service as BOD members. I personally value their friendship and look forward to many more years seeing them at the various meetings. NAFE's success has clearly been a function of the contributions of the many members who have volunteered over the years in the best interest of the organization. •

Welcome New Members!

The following is a list of new NAFE members for the period July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

Marcelle Adkins, Valkaria, FL, US
Timothy Gillihan, Oakland, CA, US
Adam Howard, Los Angeles, CA, US
Jason Imbrogno, Florence, AL, US
Lacey Junek, Bryan, TX, US
Judith Kukowski, West Conshohocken, PA, US
Ralph Litolff, Metairie, LA, US
Mark McNulty, Cheyenne, WY, US
Frank Merenda, Conshohocken, PA, US
Dan Rubenson, Ashland, OR, US

FYI

At all future NAFE meetings and sessions, including the upcoming NAFE sessions at the 2018 ASSA meeting in Philadelphia, attendees will have access to digital copies of papers that are presented. Digital access will replace the familiar NAFE binders, and will mean less to carry each day.

Photo: While visiting The Forecast *editor Lane Hudgins with their son, Will, Bill & Nancy King stopped for a picture on the line of maximum duration of the 2017 total solar eclipse in Makanda, Illinois. Hopefully they will visit again and recreate this picture when a total eclipse will pass over the same spot in 2024.*

The Forecast Plays 20 Questions with David Rosenbaum

As his term as NAFE's Midwest Vice President comes to an end, The Forecast *is pleased that David Rosenbaum agreed to be this issue's featured member. Thank you, David.*

Where were you born and raised? *I was born in Pennsylvania but raised in a suburb of Washington DC. When we moved there, you drove out of DC on an arterial until it finally dead ended. Then you turned left and that was our neighborhood.Now it's a "close-in" suburb. It was a baby boomer neighborhood. Every house had three or four or six kids. My friend was one of 12. There were so many kids, the streets were impenetrable on Halloween. Previous interviewees talked about their military experience. I am just young enough (61) so that while I drew a number for the Vietnam draft, they stopped drafting in my year.*

What did you want to be when you grew up? *When I first started college, I wanted to be a DC cop. By the time I was near finishing college, I was either going to major in economics or drop out, pursuing a career as a ballet dancer. Guess which won. Am I sorry? No. Life has turned out fine.*

Where did you go to school? *My dad went to one year of college and my mom went to nursing school. Not having college degrees and seeing how our neighbors with degrees lived had a profound effect on them. The quote I most remember from my dad when I was growing up – "You can be a garbage collector if you want, but you'll be a college educated garbage collector." It was interesting that my folks never gave us any advice about majors or careers. They just wanted us to have degrees. So all five of us kids graduated from the University of Maryland.*

First job? *My very first job was helping my dad – he moonlighted doing carpentry for the neighbors. My next job was flipping burgers. I paid for college by painting houses in the summers. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in economics and a minor in computer science, I worked as a research assistant at The Urban Institute. The position entailed developing computer models of urban expansion based on transportation schemes. It was interesting for a few months, but involved too much computer programming after a while. It made me want to get an advanced degree so I wouldn't have to write all the code anymore and as an academic I wouldn't have a boss anymore. We have been at the University of Nebraska since earning my Ph.D.*

What is one word that describes you? *I would say "Reliable." My wife says "Mediator."*

Which words or phrases do you most overuse? *So........*

When and where are you happiest? *I am happy when I am with my wife and kids. One daughter lives in NYC with her husband and the other lives in Austin TX. We usually all get together once a year around the holidays. Of course, as a Nebraskan I am also happy when the Husker team football wins a national championship. Ahhhh the good old days.*

Do you have any hobbies? *My most consistent hobby is exercising. Some Pilates, yoga, weight lifting and walking. It feels good and calms my mind. It has been interesting to see how these workouts have changed with the aging process. Yoga I replaced Yoga II. Tuesday night Pilates has been replaced by Thursday night Pilates/stretching. None of the weights I lift have three digits, and I am embarrassed to say that one or two barely creep into two-digit territory. After a recent* *knee scope, the orthopedic doc suggested no more running or jarring sports like basketball. Good thing neither appealed anyway.*

Early bird or night owl? *At this point, I am neither. It is hard to get up in the morning and staying coherent past 10pm is difficult. Call me a mid-morning person. That seems to be my most productive time.*

Beach, city or mountains? *I have lived in Nebraska for 32 years. At the beach you definitely get sand in your swim suit. The city --- too crowded after two days. The mountains are way too tall. Give me the plains any day.*

Who are your favorite writers? *I enjoy the writings of Alice Hoffman and Ann Patchett. Belle Canto is one of my all-time favorite books. I also liked Robert Parker when he was alive. Now, not so much. For straight out humor, my favorites are David Sedaris and Carl Hiaasen. Then there are the early works of John le Carré. I am currently reading A Gentleman in Moscow. Guess I don't read too much non-fiction in my spare time.*

Favorite movie? Favorite Book? *Call me a movie guy. "Winter's Bone" is an amazing, dark movie, and my brother-in-law was nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actor. John Travolta was great in two very different movies – "Michael" and "Pulp Fiction". Two beautiful, yet very different movies are "Sweetland" and "Wind River". Anything with Tom Hanks has to be a good bet. And don't get me started on Annette Benning.*

Favorite indulgence? *Donuts.*

Favorite food? *Yes, food is a favorite of mine.*

Least favorite food? *Still exploring that. Liver would be near the top of the list.*

What is something you still want to learn?
I have no interest in practicing law, but would like to go to law school. Reading decisions on the NAFE-L is a favorite indulgence of mine.

If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, who or what would it be?
It would be fascinating to be a Supreme Court justice.

If you could say something to your younger self, what would it be? *How does that Bobby McFerrin song go? "Don't worry. Be happy." Seriously though, experience seems to show that most things tend to work out.*

Cats or dogs? *We had a dog once. He bit me three times in six weeks. He was gone by the seventh week.*

What do you enjoy most about this profession? *The most interesting part of being an FE is solving the puzzles associated with each case. One puzzle is the data. Who was killed or injured? What did they do? What information do you need to put the pieces together to paint a cogent and convincing argument about damages, whether from the plaintiff's or defendant's side? The other puzzle is the legal strategy. What matters? Should I testify or prepare them for deposition of the opposing expert? Do they want to go soft or hard on damages?*

Favorite NAFE meeting location? Least Favorite? (Any reasons?)
My favorite places are New York and Chicago. Both cities have lots to offer and are pretty walkable. Plus in NYC I can visit my daughter. My least favorites are probably Atlanta and Philadelphia.

What is your favorite thing about NAFE? *By far the best thing about NAFE is the professional and personal relationship building. It is a real advantage to send a question to the list or know half a dozen people you might call about the particulars of a case. These relationships get cemented at cocktail parties and serving on committees or the board. At several points in my career, it has been so helpful to hear the reflections and advice of more seasoned colleagues. As people get to know you, other opportunities emerge.* •

Counterclockwise:
1) David Rosenbaum, William Rogers, & John Ward at the Missouri Valley Economics Association meeting
2) Conference room at the Summer Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago
3} Gilbert Mathis, Jim Ciecka, Mike Nieswiadomy, & Scott Gilbert at the Summer Board of Directors Meeting

What is AIRLEAP?

Steven Payson[1]

The Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions (AIREAP) first started as a group of likeminded economists in 2006. It was incorporated in the State of Virginia in January 2007 and in that year it acquired nonprofit, 501(c)3 status as a charitable and educational organization. Shortly thereafter it acquired the trademark "AIRLEAP." I founded AIRLEAP under the following principles which have remained as AIRLEAP's official mission, and which can be found at the AIRLEAP website, http://airleap.org/*:*

> The motivation behind AIRLEAP derives, first and foremost, from the recognized importance of economics. Among all the occupations and fields of study, economics is surely quite unique in that it underlies the control and management of society's resources. Yet, it is common knowledge that the most important aspects of economics, as a force in our lives, are quite remote from the thoughts and actions that typically govern the daily business of the economics profession. The routine work of economists—whether those economists are academics, government officials, or private sector analysts—is governed by immediate factors that directly affect their careers. Such factors would surely include, for instance, economists' ability to promote the goals of their own institutions, to support and help popularize their subfields (or circle of colleagues), to publish in accredited (and, wherever possible, prestigious) journals, to acquire research funding, and to move up the career ladder wherever they are employed.
>
> It remains an open question, then, whether the behavior of economists in their profession is consistent with the greater goals of society and the most basic principles of integrity and responsible leadership. Are economists actually doing the kind of work that the public believes they should be doing? More precisely, do economists (or the "clubs" to which they belong) operate in a manner that is beneficial to society, or, in some cases, are they serving their own narrow, career-oriented interests, independent of greater societal goals and expectations? If there is, in fact, a disconnect between the work of economists and the public good, then how could the economics profession, as a whole, bring itself to correct this problem? AIRLEAP represents a joint effort by scholars and practitioners alike to address these concerns, and to promote, in general, integrity and responsible leadership within the profession.
>
> AIRLEAP surely recognizes that integrity and responsible leadership are goals that must be pursued by individual economists and by the institutions that employ them. The Association's existence is not meant to be a condemnation of the profession, nor an external criticism, for the sake of criticism alone. However, AIRLEAP does recognize, and does not hide from, the need for improvements in integrity and responsible leadership. Its goal is to work toward improving the profession in this respect—to help the profession, not harm it. It is our belief that this can best be achieved through transparent efforts to identify, analyze, and offer solutions, so that the work of economists can become as useful and beneficial to society as possible.

Photo: NAFE members William Rogers, Scott Gilbert, David Tucek, and Lane Hudgins presented papers and served as discussants at the October 2017 AIRLEAP meeting in St. Charles, Missouri. AIRLEAP was grateful for NAFE's support of this meeting and sponsorship of their cocktail reception.

Also in its website AIRLEAP posts various FAQs that are often expressed in response to common questions people have raised about this mission. Perhaps the two that have received the most recognition are:

> *By its very name, does the "Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions" (AIRLEAP) insinuate that the economics profession is inherently lacking in integrity and responsible leadership?*
>
> No. AIRLEAP fully recognizes that integrity and responsible leadership do exist in the economics profession. We are made up of economists and other professionals who work in economic areas. If our organization truly believed that economists and associated professionals inherently lack integrity and responsible leadership, then our strategy would have been to seek the support of non-economists, as opposed to economists. AIRLEAP recognizes that there are very many economists and related professionals who have a great deal of integrity, and who are responsible leaders. However, AIRLEAP does realize that there is room for improvement in the areas. In our view, our commitment to integrity and responsible leadership requires us to identify, and to act on, the situations that do warrant improvement.
>
> As indicated in our mission statement, we are not running a "witch hunt." Our goal is not to embarrass or demean particular individuals or organizations, but to help them achieve the recognition and respect that we believe they, themselves, would want to achieve. Our attitude is positive; we are "for" economics, not "against" it.
>
> *How does AIRLEAP compare to organizations that critically examine the field of economics, such as the Post-Autistic Economics Network, the Econ Journal Watch, and the International Network for Economic Method?*
>
> AIRLEAP shares and applauds all efforts by organizations to improve economics and associated fields by making them as useful, as accountable, and as beneficial to society as possible. AIRLEAP welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with these organizations wherever it might be feasible, in mutual efforts to improve economic discourse. However, unlike several other organizations with similar goals, AIRLEAP neither advocates, nor criticizes, any particular school of thought in economics. Except for

1. Executive Director, Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions (AIRLEAP), McLean, VA. Contact at: *steven.payson@airleap.org*

our stated ideological commitment to integrity and responsible leadership, we are otherwise "ideologically neutral."

Amnesty International, for example, states that it is "independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion," and "It is concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights." In a similar spirit, though AIRLEAP does not generally address human rights, we are focused on the promotion of integrity and responsible leadership, which, in our view, transcends across all subfields of economics and associated professions, in the same way that human rights issues transcend across all political perspectives.

We would like to see a more unified and direct effort across all subfields of economics, from econometrics to economic philosophy, to promote greater integrity and responsible leadership in the profession. We are not opposed to the debates that exist between different schools of thought, but we do not, as a group, take sides in those debates. In our view, this makes us unique among the many economic societies and associations that exist today.

One other, rather important, distinguishing feature about AIRLEAP is that we view our audience as the entire economics profession and other professions associated with economics. Our audience includes, but is not restricted to, academic scholars who are studying the history of economic thought. We address scholarly questions, but also address rather simple and basic questions about integrity and responsible leadership, in such down-to-Earth areas as the hiring of economists and fairness in peer review. Our work is not esoteric or prohibitive; we want whatever we produce to be read, understood, and appreciated by as wide an audience as possible.

Throughout its history AIRLEAP has been blessed to have highly distinguished members of its Board of Directors, which, for the last 7 years, has been chaired by Deirdre McCloskey (Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English and Communication). Its current board members also include Richard G. Anderson (Lindenwood University), Amelie Constant (Princeton), Mark Costa (Sustain Software), George DeMartino (University of Denver), Seth Giertz (University of Texas-Dallas), Areerat Kichkha (Lindenwood University), Steven Payson (Department of the Interior), Paul Rothstein (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau), W. Charles Sawyer (Texas Christian University), and Stephen Ziliak (Roosevelt University). AIRLEAP's previous directors have included (among several others), Gary Hoover (University of Oklahoma), Thomas Mayer (University of California-Davis) and Brooks Robinson (U.S. Navy-Pacific Command).

Since its inception AIRLEAP has continued to have an important, positive influence on the economics community. In 2007 we received a generous contribution from the Kiva Foundation that enabled us to hire a summer intern in 2008 who further developed our annotated bibliography as a tool for researchers. We produced and distributed issues of our newsletter, and have even sold our own mugs and t-shirts (with AIRLEAP logos). As the organization has grown, we have also evolved as the profession has evolved, especially in our absorbing what the profession learned from the great recession of 2008-2009.

Our most notable accomplishments have been in the public AIRLEAP presentations that we have organized, which have included lectures, conference sessions, and training seminars. One of these was a well-attended independent session in 2009 during the annual meetings of the American Economic Association, where three of AIRLEAP's directors presented separate papers on "Professional Ethics in Economics," all of which were published in the economics journal *Challenge*. Later the same year Professor McCloskey, as Chair of AIRLEAP's Board, delivered two presentations in Washington, DC to World Bank employees on the subjects of economic history and professional ethics.

At the Annual Meetings of the American Economic Association (AEA) in Chicago in 2012, AIRLEAP organized a special session before over 100 economists, which was filmed by the Consultants Training Institute because of their interest in the topic. The session was accepted into the program as a session sponsored by the Society of Government Economists. That session, entitled "Improving Professional Ethics in Economics in the Aftermath of the Last Crisis: Hype, Lip-Service, or Progress?" featured Dr. Susan Offutt, Chief Economist for the Government Accountability Office; Brooks Robinson, US Pacific Command (my former supervisor at BEA); David Colander, Middlebury College; Deirdre McCloskey; Martha Starr, American U.; Edward Leamer, U. of California-Los Angeles; William Black, U. of Missouri-Kansas; and Bryan Roberts, Nathan Associates.

In November 2012 AIRLEAP conducted a one-day training session that I organized at the annual meetings of the Society of Government Economists (SGE). AIRLEAP presented papers at the 2013 Annual Meetings of the American Economic Association, where George DeMartino, David Colander, and I were invited by the Association for Social Economics (ASE) to serve on a panel on "Ethics and Professional Economic Practice – Next Steps?"

In her chapter on "Professional Ethics for Economists in Federal Service," in *Public Economics in the United States* (ABC-CLIO, 2014), Susan Offutt (GAO Chief Economist) described AIRLEAP as a potential supplier of training courses to Federal economists on professional ethics and leadership responsibility. She wrote:

> In settings like the Government Accountability Office … it would not seem difficult to introduce such a course and have it enthusiastically received. … The Association for Integrity and Responsible Leadership in Economics and Associated Professions (AIRLEAP) … seeks to promote integrity and responsible leadership in economics; instruction under its auspices might be a possibility. The very first thing to do would be to design such a curriculum, offer it, and see what happens. Simply its appearance on the scene might motivate consideration of professional ethics that would not otherwise occur.

With AIRLEAP's support, George DeMartino's book, *The Economist's Oath*, received worldwide acclaim. The book was instrumental in influencing the American Economic Association to implement a new policy that now requires the authors of AEA journal articles to disclose their source of research funding, in order to promote transparency and professional ethics in the publication of their research findings.

AIRLEAP is mentioned in *The Economist's Oath* as well, and in the more recent *Oxford Handbook of Professional Economic Ethics*.[2] Perhaps it might not be surprising that I mention AIRLEAP as well in my recent book, *How Economics Professors Can Stop Failing Us*.

Through its continued efforts, AIRLEAP has become an allied association of the Society of Government Economists, the Eastern Economic Association, the Southern Economic Association, and the Western Economic Association.

In February 2016 AIRLEAP held a one-day training seminar for economists during the annual meeting of the Eastern Economic Association in Washington, DC. About 100 people attended

cont. on page 8...

2. Editor's note: John Ward and Robert Thornton contributed the chapter "Ethical Issues in Forensic Economics" to *The Oxford Handbook of Professional Economic Ethics*, which was edited by George DeMartino and Deirdre McCloskey. Please see their note in this issue of the newsletter regarding a review of their chapter by Professor Anne Krueger that appeared in the March 2017 issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature*.

cont. from page 7...

and it featured presentations from the Directors of three economics agencies: Brain Moyer (BEA Director), Erica Groshen (BLS Commissioner), and Keith Hall (CBO Director). Also attending were the Chief Economist from the Department of the Interior, a leading official from the World Bank, and highly distinguished economics professors who had written books on principles of ethics in economics. Many of the attendees of the seminar were federal economists who had come to it in order to meet official training requirements, especially from BEA, which had the highest attendance among the federal agencies participating. The seminar received excellent anonymous reviews from the attendees, and was seen as substantially raising the bar on professional ethics training in economics. As a result of its success, all three agency directors agreed to participate in it again in a similar seminar that AIRLEAP held on January 8, 2017 in Chicago, which was also very well received.

Last month AIRLEAP finally had the opportunity to organize its own two day conference, held in St. Charles, Missouri, with keynote speakers Erica Groshen and George DeMartino. The conference featured a wide range of topics, all related to AIRLEAP's mission, including: (1) Improving Standards and Beliefs in Economic Practice, (2) Instilling Integrity in the Next Generation of Researchers: Project TIER and Beyond, (3) Forensic Economics: Candor and Transparency in Legal and Consulting Arenas, (4) Replication in Empirical Economics, (5) Ethics in Economics Education and Practice, (6) Current Methods of Economic Analysis and Policy Development, and (7) Improving Understanding in Labor Economics, Big Data, and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

AIRLEAP has long recognized its colleagues in the National Association of Forensic Economics for the similarities that both organizations have with regard to their commitment to ethics and integrity in economics practice. In fact, in one of AIRLEAP's earliest issues of its occasional newsletter, it had an article about NAFE and NAFE's code of ethics. AIRLEAP was thus proud to be collaborating with NAFE in its first conference last month, where NAFE members organized a session on Forensic Economics and NAFE helped sponsor cocktails at our dinner reception.

AIRLEAP continues to welcome NAFE members to join AIRLEAP, whose membership is free.

Admittedly, AIRLEAP has continued to experience "growing pains," especially with regard to financial challenges, since it is not easy for a nonprofit organization with free membership to raise adequate funds. Indeed, one of the running jokes at AIRLEAP to describe the problem has the affirmation, "There's no money in professional ethics!" However, AIRLEAP's situation very recently changed when the Hammond Institute at Lindenwood University sponsored AIRLEAP's conference in St. Charles. AIRLEAP has now appeared to enter into a new stage of receiving institutional support, which it greatly needs to revamp its antiquated website, bring back its newsletter, and look forward to larger and better publicized conferences. In any case, AIRLEAP is proud to have successfully survived as a nonprofit organization, and has definitely grown for the past 11 years. AIRLEAP will continue to march forward thanks to the support it has received from its members, and from partner organizations like NAFE! •

Did We Write That?

Robert Thornton and John Ward

In her recent review essay of *The Oxford Handbook of Professional Economic Ethics* edited by George DeMartino and Deirdre McCloskey in the *Journal of Economic Literature* (March 2017), Professor Anne Krueger makes reference (footnote 4, p. 216) to the chapter on forensic economics ("Ethical Issues in Forensic Economics") written by the two of us. As Krueger states:

> There is an article, by Robert J. Thornton and John O. Wade [sic] (pp. 671–93) on forensic economics, in which the authors are highly critical of the adversarial approach to court determinations of values of losses and seem to believe that prohibiting economists, and asking laymen, to testify would produce better results. There is no convincing argument made as to why that process would be superior. Nor is it clear how laymen would be chosen: if not randomly, there could be equal if not greater conflicts there. If repeatedly, issues arise. And so on. But none of this is discussed.

Unfortunately, Krueger's description of our chapter is in error. First, nowhere in our chapter did we offer (or imply) criticism of the adversarial nature of court proceedings in tort actions. Nor in our chapter did we suggest that "prohibiting economists, and asking laymen, to testify would produce better results." In fact, we made no mention at all of laymen in our chapter.

Since the publication of her review essay, we have had several corresponding e-mails with Professor Krueger, who has since acknowledged her error and has graciously apologized. She has also written the editors of the *Journal of Economic Literature*, who will publish her statement to this effect (as a *corrigendum*) in the December issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature*. •

1. Robert Thornton, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. Contact at: *rjt1@lehigh.edu*
John Ward, University of Missouri – Kansas City, Kansas City, MO. Contact at: *ward@johnwardeconomics.com*

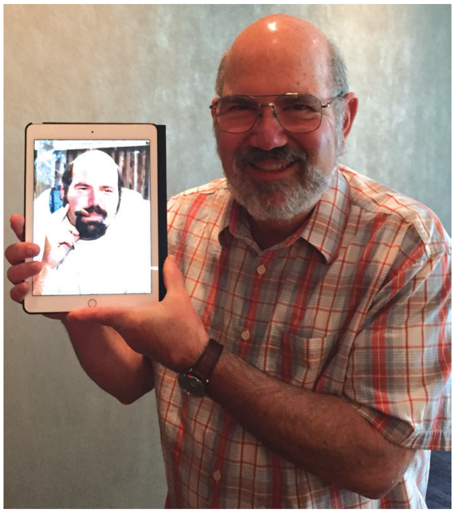
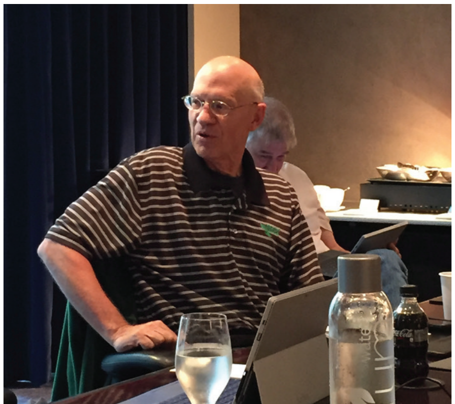
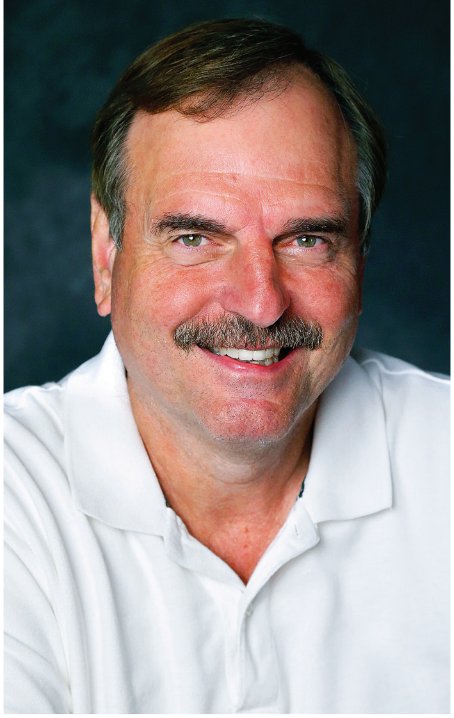


Photo Above: NAFE Past President Larry Spizman and his younger self at the Summer BOD meeting in Chicago

Photo Below: Mike Nieswiadomy at the Summer BOD meeting





David Schap

Expert Opinion: Victor Matheson, Kristin Kucsma & Frank Tinari

Edited by David Schap

Expert Opinion is an occasional column appearing in The Forecast*. As its name implies, the essays appearing under its title are opinion pieces, but the opinions expressed are to reflect such fact, research, and analysis as is appropriate to forensic economic expertise. Topics and essayists will vary by issue. Suggestions for future topics and/or writers may be sent to David Schap at* dschap@holycross.edu*. Ordinarily, some controversial issue in forensic economics will be featured, with opposing viewpoints. On occasion the column may feature a single forensic economist explaining why thinking in the profession has coalesced around a common vision on some topic. The essays should be lively, yet substantive; referencing should be informative, but not pedantic.*

In this issue, two opposing viewpoints are presented on the issue of whether it is appropriate in death cases to make a reduction from the loss of household services that would have been provided by decedent absent the death event for that portion of the services that decedent would have personally consumed. Such a reduction is thought by some to be akin to the reduction commonly made for what would have been decedent's personal consumption out of earnings. The motivation for covering the topic in *Expert Opinion* finds its origin in a discussion that occurred at the 2016 Eastern Economic Association meetings, arising out of a paper for which Victor Matheson was a coauthor and Frank Tinari was the discussant. Knowing their disparate positions on the topic from that earlier discussion, inviting the two of them to present their opposing views in this forum came as a natural idea. Frank Tinari, with my agreement, then invited Kristin Kucsma to assist in developing their side of the issue.

Victor Matheson presents the case favoring a reduction for decedent personal consumption of contributed household services. Known in forensic economics circles perhaps most prominently as coauthor (with Joshua Congdon-Hohman) of an influential article that appeared in the *Journal of Forensic Economics* (September 2013) titled "Potential Effects of the Affordable Care Act on the Award of Life Care Expenses," Victor Matheson is the author or coauthor of nearly 100 articles in economics, including more than 50 in sports economics. I am delighted to note that Victor is also my colleague at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Frank Tinari and Kristin Kucsma present the case against a reduction for decedent personal consumption of contributed household services. Frank Tinari, a Past President of NAFE and Professor Emeritus at Seton Hall University, was founder of Tinari Economics Group, now part of Sobel Tinari Economics Group (New Jersey and New York). In 2016, his edited volume, *Forensic Economics: Assessing Personal Damages in Civil Litigation*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan. Kristin Kucsma is Principal and Chief Economist of Sobel Tinari Economics Group. Her academic career included teaching affiliations with four respected institutions of higher education, teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her involvement in litigation matters as a forensic economist is pronounced, featuring scores of appearances in trial matters.

The Case for Accounting for Personal Consumption in Household Services

Victor Matheson[1]

It is well-established both in the academic literature as well as in statutory and judicial law that economists should account for the personal consumption of the decedent when calculating income losses in matters involving wrongful death (with few jurisdictional exceptions, like Georgia, where reduction for personal consumption of earnings is not permitted). Indeed most states require the deduction for self-consumption. The reasoning here is fairly clear. While the death of a family member may result in lower household income, that same family member also would have consumed a portion of the household's income for his or her own personal use. If the goal of litigation is to make the survivors whole, the plaintiffs do not need to be compensated for income they never would have been able to use.

The same reasoning should apply to household services. The death of a family member eliminates the service contributions of that person to the household, but a portion of the required household services are also eliminated at the same time. Some household service components, such as yard work or shoveling snow are clearly joint in consumption. The lawn needs to be mowed the same number of times whether 1 person or 10 persons live in the household. Other household service components, however, are clearly associated with the individual, and the decedent's death will reduce the total household service load by, for example, reducing the number of dishes and the amount of laundry produced.

Of course, while it appears obvious that household services do have an element of personal consumption, the real question for forensic economists is what level of personal consumption to use. The existing literature is nearly silent on this subject. Gerald Martin (2004) notes that a 1995 NAFE meeting tackled this issue and anecdotally found that most economists attending the session did reduce service losses for personal consumption with a range of 5 to 15% being common. Attendees reported also seeing no adjustment made for personal consumption while others reported seeing consumption percentages all of the way up to 50 percent.

cont. on page 10...

1. Professor of Economics, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. Contact at: *vmatheso@holycross.edu*

cont. from page 9...

Martin makes various suggestions as to the appropriate reduction. One suggestion is to follow Trout and Foster (1993) who state that they use the same personal consumption percentage for household services as they use for income. This would suggest a deduction between 20% to 40% depending on family size and income. Of course, it is not entirely clear why personal consumption of household services would vary with income as it does for earnings.

Another alternative suggested by Martin is to assume that 50% of household services are joint in consumption and the other half are shared evenly among all household members. Thus, personal consumption would be defined as equal to 50/n percent, where n is the number of household members. In this case the FE would use a 25 percent personal consumption percentage if the decedent had been part of a two-person household, while a 12.5 percent personal consumption percentage would be used if the decedent had been part of a four-person household.

Finally, one could appeal to data. The two major components of household services as reported by the American Time Use Survey are "Household Activities" and "Care for Household Members." By its very definition, care for other household members cannot be self-consumed, and certain components of household activities, such as home maintenance, lawn and garden care, care for animals, and household financial management, are likely to be mostly joint in consumption. Other types of household services, however, such as laundry, kitchen and food cleanup, and interior cleaning have an element of self-consumption. As an approximation, about one hour of the 2.34 hours the average person spends in household services each day have an obvious self-consumption component. Depending on what portion of these components is self-consumed, reducing household service losses by 10 to 25 percent might be reasonable. Of course, every household and every decedent is different, and therefore the reasonable percentage will vary.

The primary objection to using any of these methodologies is that the FE is providing an estimate based on speculation rather than scientific expertise. But failing to reduce household services for personal consumption makes the FE guilty of the same charge since the FE is, in effect, specifically choosing a personal consumption percentage of zero percent whether or not the FE explicitly states this assumption.

Summing up, a household service personal consumption percentage in a range from 10 to 25 percent can easily be justified both by the data and by the typical practice of other forensic economists.

Sources:

Gerald Martin. 2004. *Determining Economic Damages, 16th edition*, Costa Mesa, California: James Publishing, §632-633.

Robert R. Trout and Carroll B. Foster. 1993. "Estimating A Decedent's Consumption in Wrongful Death Cases," *Journal of Forensic Economics* 6(2), pp. 135-150.

Loss of Services Calculations Should Not Incorporate a Personal Consumption Deduction

Kristin Kucsma and Frank D. Tinari[1]

In wrongful death litigation, economic experts often value the loss of services to surviving family members who have legal standing to make a claim. The services that the deceased may have continued to provide for the benefit of family members could include household chores, home maintenance and management, companionship, advice and guidance, special care services, etc. (Tinari 2016). The presumption in such analyses is that services that the decedent had provided solely for himself or herself should not be included in the expert's opinion of losses.

Some services, such as mom helping Natasha with her homework, are individually consumed, making it clear for whom the service was provided. In some cases, these services may be provided one-on-one (e.g., mom tutors Natasha). In other cases, the services may be provided simultaneously to more than one recipient (e.g., mom provides companionship services to Natasha and her brother, Simon, while the three spend an afternoon together). Setting aside the question of whether six hours or three hours of companionship were lost (three hours each for Natasha and Simon individually, or three hours collectively), it is clear that Natasha and Simon were the beneficiaries of the services provided by their mother.

Next, consider more typical household services such as mowing the lawn or preparing a meal. The resulting benefits from such activities typically extend to the entire household, including the decedent. Consequently, some experts attempt to make an adjustment to the amount of time that would have been devoted to household services by a deceased member of a household in order to account for the personal consumption of the specified services, defined in Martin and Weinstein (2012, Section 631) as "the amount of household services performed by the decedent that were for his/her benefit only and were not a loss to the family. This is analogous to the deduction of personal maintenance (consumption) from the income lost due to the death of a family member." Implicit in the analyst's decision to make this adjustment is the notion that there is likely a portion of the provided services that benefits <u>only</u> that family member.

The analogy to income loss, however, is weak because all or nearly all of the services provided by family members for one another possess the characteristics of 1) indivisibility, i.e., the provision of a service for one member of the household benefits simultaneously all household members, and 2) non-rivalry in consumption, i.e., use of a service by any one member does not reduce consumption by other household members. For example, it may be tempting to conclude that, because money spent on socks is considered personal consumption, doing laundry (i.e., washing the socks) must also be considered personal consumption. Not so. Only one person can wear a particular pair of socks. But that pair of socks is typically co-mingled with other socks such that the washing of all socks takes place at once and provides the entire family, including the decedent, with clean socks to wear. Washing time would not be reduced by subtracting one pair of socks from the wash, and the washing of any one pair of socks does not reduce the washing of all other socks.

Typical household services such as washing clothes, preparing meals, paying the bills, shopping, house cleaning and mowing the lawn are, in economic terms, jointly produced and jointly consumed. Olson and Rodgers (1999, p. 260) refer to this phenomenon as the public goods aspect of the provision of services, a phenomenon that renders an adjustment to household services for personal consumption illogical, if not impossible.

Hence, analysts who choose to make an adjustment to the value of lost services by subtracting a measure of personal

1. Kristin Kucsma, Principal and Chief Economist, Sobel Tinari Economics Group. Contact at: *KKucsma@SobelTinariEconomics.com*
Frank Tinari, Prof. Emeritus, Seton Hall University, Principal Economist Emeritus, Sobel Tinari Economics Group, Mayor Emeritus, Borough of Florham Park, NJ.
Contact at: Frank.Tinari@SobelTinariEconomics.com

consumption must have reasonable data for a foundation. Some forensic economists use questionnaires to obtain information from surviving family members about services that the decedent provided to the household. In most cases, questions focus on services provided to the household and/or individual family members. Responses, therefore, are assumed to exclude any time decedent spent solely by, or for, himself. In contrast, one may want to consider national data. The federally funded American Time Use Survey contains dozens of questions about services. Data from this survey are summarized and organized in tabular format in *Dollar Value of a Day (DVD)* for use by forensic economists in valuing lost services. Organizing these data, however, requires a series of decisions as to what sorts of activities should be included in the *DVD's* compilation of household production.

Included in the *DVD* are data labeled "Household Production Weekly Hours for the Benefit of the Respondent." Some economists may use this information to adjust lost household services to reflect personal consumption by the decedent. Relying upon this information for that purpose, however, may not be appropriate. For one thing, the data are not identified as weekly hours solely for the benefit of the respondent. Of much greater significance, though, is the simple fact that those tasks considered as part of Household Production in the *DVD* (Inside Housework; Food Cooking & Clean-up; Pets, Home & Vehicles; Household Management; Shopping; Obtaining Services and Travel for Household Activity) are indivisible and non-rivalrous in their consumption.

In addition, further review of these *DVD* data yields odd results. For single men of all ages who are retired and living alone, it is reported that 27.1 percent of the total household production benefits the respondent. This is nonsensical in light of the fact that the household size is 1.0, the number of adults is 1.0, and the number of children is 0.0. Bizarre results appear also for single men who are employed full-time and single women who are retired, or who work part- or full-time. Given these problems, use of such data to reduce household services for personal consumption is inappropriate.

References

Expectancy Data, *Dollar Value of a Day,* Expectancy Data, Shawnee Mission, KS, 2017.

Martin, Gerald D. and Weinstein, Marc A. *Determining Economic Damages.* James Publishing, Costa Mesa, CA, 2012.

Olson, G. W., & Rodgers, J.D. "The Problem of Valuing Emotional Services: An analysis of Legal and Economic Criteria" (Reading 21) in Ireland and Depperschmidt, eds., *Assessing Family Loss in Wrongful Death Litigation: The Special Roles of Lost Services and Personal Consumption,* Lawyers & Judges Publishing Co., Inc., Tucson, 1999.

Tinari, Frank D. "Challenges in Valuing Loss of Services" (Chapter 10), in Frank D. Tinari, ed., *Forensic Economics: Assessing Personal Damages in Civil Litigation*, Palgrave Macmillan, NY, 2016. •

Announcing Distinguished Speaker Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.

"Unconventional responses to unique catastrophes: Tailoring the law to meet the challenges"

Friday, January 5, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.
Independence Ballroom I
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown

A special session sponsored by the National Association of Forensic Economics
At the 2018 Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Feinberg, a leading attorney in mediation and alternative dispute resolution, served as special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, TARP Executive Compensation, and the Agent Orange Victim Compensation Program. He also served as administrator of the Virginia Tech Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund, the Aurora Victim Relief Fund, and the One Fund Boston Victim Relief Fund, and administered compensation claims for the Gulf Coast Claims Facility after the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. •

NAFE Visits
PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia Freedom, Shine on Me

Marc Weinstein

I'm a homer. I admit it. As a result, I stand by anything and everything Philadelphia. From our sport teams, history, arts, culture, education, and culinary scene: *Philadelphia freedom I love you, yes I do*. The City of Brotherly Love offers many options for everyone. And the Philadelphia Eagles currently have the best record in the National Football League!

So, while in town to attend the NAFE Sessions at the ASSA, here are just a few things you should consider during your stay, in no particular order:

- **Eat a cheesesteak** Make sure you order it "whiz wit" meaning cheese whiz with fried onions. It's the only way to eat it. Also, be sure to hold your sandwich parallel to the table to avoid the cheese and grease from getting all over you.
- **Visit the Liberty Bell** Nothing signifies Philadelphia more than the Liberty Bell which is approximately eight blocks east on Market Street from the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown. While admiring the Bell, you can see Independence Hall directly behind it, too.
- **Run up the Art Museum Steps just like Rocky** Plus, you can see the actual Rocky statue adjacent to the 72 steps.
- ***Trust the Process* and attend the Philadelphia 76'ers vs. Detroit Pistons game Friday, January 5, 2018 @ 7:00 PM at the Wells Fargo Center** You would have to miss most of the NAFE Cocktail Reception, but the Sixers are a fun team to watch (I'm a Homer, remember?). Also, the Philadelphia Flyers share the same arena with the Sixers and are home Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday January 4th, 6th, and 7th, respectively. Both are a short subway ride away straight down Broad Street.
- **Visit the National Constitution Center, only one block north of the Liberty Bell** This is a powerful display of America's history.
- **Have lunch at the Reading Terminal Market adjacent to the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown** There are almost 100 different vendors where you can sample food from around the world.
- **Spend time at one of the many fabulous museums in, or around center-city Philadelphia:**
  - Philadelphia Museum of Art
  - Franklin Institute Science Museum
  - Rodin Museum
  - PA Academy of Fine Arts
  - Mutter Museum
  - Academy of Natural Sciences
  - Eastern State Penitentiary
  - Museum of the American Revolution
  - University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- **Stroll through beautiful Rittenhouse Square located in the heart of Center City Philadelphia.** Rittenhouse Square is flanked by wonderful restaurants, shopping, and high-rise apartments and office buildings.
- **When calling out to another individual, start off by saying "Yo" to grab their attention.** You're bound to fit right in, and many people are liable to respond, as well.
- **Dine at any one of the many culinary masterpieces by top chefs that make Philadelphia one of the top food cities in the United States every year.** In close proximity to the host hotel, some of my favorites include (in no particular order):
  - Buddakan / Continental
  - Double Knot / Sampan
  - Talula's Garden
  - Vernick Food & Drink
  - El Vez
  - Zahav
  - Monk's Cafe
  - Morimoto Sushi
  - Parc
  - Garces Trading Company

Clearly, my opinions with respect to my home town could be viewed as biased. However, I believe I have outlined just some of the highlights Philadelphia has to offer and I'm confident Philadelphia will shine on you, too. •

Meeting Updates

Southern Meeting

Schedule of Sessions - Revised

87th Annual Meeting, Southern Economic Association
Tampa, FL – Meeting Dates: November 17-19, 2017
NAFE Session: November 18, 2017
Conference Information: *https://www.southerneconomic.org/conference/*
Hotel: Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina
Hotel Reservations: (813) 221-4900 or reserve online at: *https://aws.passkey.com/event/16324790/owner/1999/landing?gtid=86bd40a0bb58c8101ec8e0f007a1f03c*

As this issue of *The Forecast* goes to print, NAFE will be holding two sessions in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association in Tampa, Florida, on November 18, 2017. The first session includes four papers, and the second includes a panel discussion with five panelists. The schedule of sessions has been updated for some changes in participants.

Southern Meeting Schedule of NAFE Sessions

Please note that in lieu of NAFE Session binders, electronic copies of papers presented at NAFE sessions will be made available to conference attendees.

Saturday, November 18, 2017

NAFE Session I - Topics in Forensic Economics I
8:00AM – 9:45 AM
Chair: David J. Zaumeret, Principal Economist, The Forensic Economist Group

"The 'Best and Safest Investments' Dilemma: When Ten-Year Treasuries Are the Discount Rates, What Are the Appropriate Growth Rates?"
Presenters: Jerome S. Paige, Subodh Mathur and Moses Sawney, Jerome S. Paige & Associates, LLC
Discussant: A. Frank Adams, III, Kennesaw State University

"The Concept of a Bell Curve as a Means to Show Damages Using the Geometric Methodology of a Forensic Bell Curve to Document Injury Costs Within a Life Care Plan"
Presenter: Robert L. Lessne, Forensic Economist
Discussant: Steven J. Shapiro, Analytic Resources, LLC

"A Suggestion for Assessing Economic Damages in Wrongful Termination Cases"
Presenters: David A. Macpherson, Professor and Chair Department of Economics, Trinity University, and Stanley P. Stephenson, Litigation Economics LLC
Discussant: Marc Weinstein, Principal Registered Forensic Economist, Team Economics, LLC

"The TLC Computer Program"
Presenter: Robert L. Lessne, Forensic Economist
Discussant: Oscar J. Padron, Turner & Associates, LLP

NAFE Session II - Topics in Forensic Economics II
10:00AM – 11:45 AM
Chair: Gilbert L. Mathis, Murray State University

Panel Discussion
"Comparing My Early Career Reports with My Recent Reports: What has changed? What has remained the same? What future changes can be anticipated?"
Panelists: James D. Rodgers, Penn State University; Thomas R. Ireland, University of Missouri, St. Louis; Christopher C. Pflaum, Spectrum Economic, Inc.; Frank Adams, III, Kennesaw State University; and Frank Slesnick, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Bellarmine University.

Gilbert Mathis (gmathis@murraystate.edu)
Vice President – Southern Region

National Meeting

Schedule of Sessions - Special session to Feature Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.

2018 ASSA Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA - Meeting Dates: January 5-7, 2018
NAFE Sessions: January 5 & 6, 2018
Conference Information: *https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2018*
Hotel Name: Marriott Philadelphia Downtown
Housing Link: *https://www.aeawe.org/conference/2018-housing-information*

There will be four NAFE sessions held January 5th and 6th in conjunction with the 2018 ASSA Annual Meeting at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown. NAFE sessions will begin Friday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. with a special session featuring invited speaker Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq., with a membership meeting and reception to follow beginning at 5:00 p.m. Three NAFE sessions will be held Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m.

ASSA Meeting Schedule of NAFE Sessions

Please note that in lieu of NAFE session binders, electronic versions of papers presented at this meeting will be made available to session attendees.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018

NAFE SESSION I
2:30 PM
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Independence Ballroom I

NAFE Presents Kenneth R. Feinberg - The Leader in Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
Distinguished Speaker: Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.
Session Chair: Marc A. Weinstein, Team Economics, LLC (*mweinstein@teameconomics.com*)

NAFE SESSION IA – 5:00 PM
NAFE Annual Membership Meeting

NAFE SESSION IB – 6:00 PM
NAFE Reception

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

NAFE SESSION II
8:00 AM
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Grand Ballroom Salon K

Earnings/Equity Models in Forensic Economics
Session Chair: John O. Ward, University of Missouri – Kansas City (*WardJO@UMKC.edu*)

"An Economist's View of the RAPEL Approach to Determining Earnings Capacity"
Stephen Horner, Economic Consulting (*smh@economicconsulting.com*)
Frank Slesnick, Bellarmine University (*fslesnick@bellarmine.edu*)

"Practical Approaches to Combine Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Earnings Estimates"
William Rogers, Lindenwood University (*wrogers@lindenwood.edu*)

"The Tokenization Economy: Valuing Digital Token Assets"
Christopher W. Young, Rutgers University (*chris.young@rutgers.edu*)
Luigi DeMeo, Sobel & Co., LLC (*Luigi.demeo@sobel-cpa.com*)
James Janos, Sobel & Co., LLC (*James.janos@sobel-cpa.com*)
Jeffrey Sisco, Sobel & Co., LLC (*Jeff.sisco@sobel-cpa.com*)

Session Discussants:
Gary R. Skoog, Legal Econometrics, Inc. (*gskoog@umich.edu*)
Edward M. Foster, University of Minnesota (*foster@umn.edu*)
Frank Adams, Kennesaw State University (*fadams@kennesaw.edu*)

NAFE SESSION III
10:15AM
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Grand Ballroom Salon K
Economic Damages
Session Chair: Lane Hudgins, Lane Hudgins Analysis (*lane@lh-analysis.com)*

"Hyperbolic Discounting and the Defense Economist's Impact on Settlement Outcomes"
Lawrence M. Spizman, State University of New York-Oswego (*larry.spizman@oswego.edu*)

"Before and After Analysis: An Application of Structural Break Testing to the Determination of Economic Damages"
Logan Kelly, University of Wisconsin-River Falls (*logan.kelly@uwrf.edu*)
David L. Sienko, Hammarback Law Offices (*dsienko@hammarback-law.com*)

"Causation-related Limitations on the Scope of Damages"
Craig Allen, Commonwealth Research Group, Inc. (*c.allen.fcas@gmail.com*)

Session Discussants:
Kristin Kucsma, Sobel Tinari Economics Group (*kkucsma@sobeltinarieconomics.com*)
Kevin E. Cahill, Boston College (*cahillkc@bc.edu*)
Constantine M. Boukidis, VWM Analytics, LLC (*cboukidis@vwmanalytics.com*)

NAFE SESSION IV
2:30PM
Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Grand Ballroom Salon K

Worklife Expectancy and NAFE Survey Discussion
Session Chair: David G. Tucek, Value Economics, LLC (david.tucek@valueeconomics.com)

"Worklife and Occupation Physical Requirements: A Three-State Markov Model"
David I. Rosenbaum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (drosenbaum@unl.edu)

"The Effect of Recidivism on Worklife Expectancy"
Michael Nieswiadomy, University of North Texas (michael.nieswiadomy@unt.edu)

"Reflections on the 2017 NAFE Survey Results"
David Schap, College of the Holy Cross (dschap@holycross.edu)

Session Discussants:
Scott Dale Gilbert, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (gilberts@siu.edu)
Steven J. Shapiro, New York Institute of Technology (sshapi01@nyit.edu)
David I. Rosenbaum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (drosenbaum@unl.edu)

For additional information regarding the ASSA conference, click on the conference website at: https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/

Marc Weinstein (mweinstein@teameconomics.com), David Tucek (david.tucek@valueeconomics.com) & Scott Gilbert (gilberts@siu.edu) - Meeting Organizers

Winter Meeting
2018 Meeting Cancelled

Nineteenth Annual NAFE Winter Meeting Cancelled because of Hurricane Maria

We are sorry to announce that because of Hurricane Maria and the resulting damage in Puerto Rico, we have, unfortunately, had to cancel the 2018 NAFE Winter Meeting. We are planning to have the 2019 NAFE Winter Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, 2019. We appreciate your interest in the Annual NAFE Winter Meeting, and we hope you will plan to attend in January 2019.

Art Eubank (art@eubankeconomics.com) & Charles Baum (baumeconomics@gmail.com) - Meeting Organizers

Eastern Meeting
Call for Papers

44th Annual Eastern Economic Association Conference
Boston – Meeting Dates: March 1-4, 2018
NAFE Session Dates: March 2-3, 2018
Conference Information: *https://www.ramapo.edu/eea/2018-conference/*
Hotel: Sheraton Boston
Hotel Reservations: Information and links not yet available

If you are interested in submitting a paper for the NAFE sessions to be held in conjunction with the Eastern Economic Association Conference, please send your paper topic, and general outline to Christopher Young.

Chris Young (chris.young@sobel-cpa.com)
Vice-President – Eastern Region

International Meeting
Meeting Announcement

15th Annual International Conference of the National Association of Forensic Economics
Bath, England
Meeting Date: May 25, 2018
Hotel Name: Not finalized

15th Annual International Conference of the National Association of Forensic Economics
Bath, England – May 25, 2018

The meeting in Bath will be held at the Francis Hotel, a Sofitel and Accor hotel, on May 25 of 2018. The full day meeting will run from 8 am to 4:30 pm and will be followed by a group dinner. The Francis Hotel (*http://francishotel.com/*) is a unique ensemble of Georgian townhouses built in 1858 in the classic square of Bath. Bath has a rich history and the Roman Baths are a historical treasure. Bath is close to Bristol, Stonehenge and Cardiff and is easily accessed from Bristol Airport or Heathrow. The hotel will provide participants with a registration code for registration, and the room rates will range from $230 to $280/night for a Comfort room to a Superior room. Registration for the conference will be $320 for a couple and $220 for a single and will include the conference dinner on May 25. Attendance will be limited to 20 this year.

If you have an interest in attending, please contact John Ward at *wardjo@umkc.edu* or 913-381-9420. Please note that checks for registration should be made out to: John Ward Economics (not John Ward), and sent to Ste 235, 8340 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66206.

John Ward (wardjo@umkc.edu) - Meeting Organizer

Western Meeting
Call for Papers & Discussants

93rd Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Meeting Dates: June 26-30, 2018
NAFE Sessions Dates: June 28-29, 2018
Conference Information: *http://www.weai.org/ConfHistory* (Separate Conference Website TBD)
Hotel Name: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
Housing Link: TBD

NAFE sessions will be held at the 93rd Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International in Vancouver, BC, Canada on June 28 – 29, 2018. NAFE will hold 3 sessions on each date, for a total of 6 sessions. The agenda is open, and potential presenters and discussants are encouraged to contact Bill Brandt through January 6, 2018, and the new NAFE Vice President – Western Region thereafter. Further details will follow.

William G. Brandt (bill@brandtforensiceconomics.com) transitioning January 2018 to new NAFE Vice President – Western Region

Midwestern Meeting
Recap of Recent Meeting & Call for Papers and Discussants

55th Annual Conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association
Memphis, TN
Meeting Dates: November 1-3, 2018
NAFE Sessions Dates: TBD
Conference Information: *http://www.mvea.net/annual-conference.html*
Hotel Name: Not yet available

At this year's Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual Meeting, NAFE sponsored the President's Reception and one session featuring a roundtable discussion on "Issues in Valuing Household Services", with William Rodgers, Dave Rosenbaum and Jack Ward, on Saturday morning. Phil Miller from Minnesota State University-Mankato is the new MVEA President, and next year's meeting will be in Memphis, Tennessee. Check the MVEA website for meeting information as it becomes available, and please contact me or the new NAFE Midwestern VP after January 2018 if you would like to present a paper or participate in the 2018 Missouri Valley meeting.

David Rosenbaum (drosenbaum1unl.edu)
Vice President – Midwestern Region

Meetings of Other Associations

American Academy of Economic & Financial Experts

AAEFE 30th Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, NV – April 12 & 13, 2018
Hotel: New York New York Hotel & Casino
Conference Information: check *www.aaefe.org/annual-meeting* for information and updates

American Rehabilitation Economics Association

AREA 2018 Annual Conference
Austin, TX – June 21-23, 2018
Hotel: Sheraton Austin Hotel at The Capitol
Conference Information: *www.a-r-e-a.org/*

The NAFE International History

15th Annual NAFE International Meeting to be held in Bath, UK May 27, 2018

John Ward, Meeting Organizer

Next year represents a milestone for the NAFE International with our 15th annual meeting. The meeting will be held in Bath, England at the Francis Hotel on May 27 and, as usual, we expect to have a great time.

Since 2004 NAFE has held meetings in Europe each May. Meeting locations have included Edinburgh, Scotland; Dublin, Ireland; Florence, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; Istanbul, Turkey; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Copenhagen, Denmark; Venice, Italy; Budapest, Hungary; Cannes, France; Lisbon, Portugal; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Bucharest, Romania; and Milan, Italy.

Over those fourteen years our attendance has been 186, most participants attending at least 5 meetings. Of the 45 individuals attending, 31 have been from the U.S.A and 14 from the E.U.. With spouses and significant others added we usually have 25 to 30 people for our group dinners and tours and the "International" has been an opportunity to see most of Europe.

Our European participants have come from Italy, the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Hungary, Croatia and Romania. European participants have included faculty from The University of Cardiff, the City University of London, the University College of Dublin, the Sant'Anna School of Law in Pisa, The University of Bucharest and attorneys from Bucharest, Dubrovnik, Budapest and London. Our guest speakers have included the Chief Justice of the Irish supreme Court and the Chairman of the Counsel of Barristers of the United Kingdom.

Several of our E.U. participants have presented papers at our ASSA meetings and a number of them contributed chapters to *Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Damages Calculations: Transatlantic Dialogue*, Ward and Thornton, Editors, London, Emerald Books, 2009.

Seven NAFE Members have attended 10 or more meetings and the meetings have produced international ties that have resulted in collaborative research between NAFE members and our European counterparts. While participation is limited to twenty participants we always are able to accommodate a few adventurous NAFE members and we hope you can join us in the future. •

Photo Above: Putney Bridge over the River Avon, Bath, England.
Photo Below: The Roman Baths at night, Bath, England.

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NAFE Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming NAFE meetings and sessions

2017

SOUTHERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
Tampa – NAFE Sessions: November 18, 2017

2018

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION – ASSA
Philadelphia – NAFE Sessions: January 5-6, 2018

NAFE WINTER MEETING
Canceled due to conditions in Puerto Rico

EASTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
Boston – NAFE Sessions: March 2-3, 2018

NAFE INTERNATIONAL MEETING
Bath, England – NAFE Meeting Date: May 25, 2018

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
Vancouver, Canada – NAFE Sessions: June 28-29, 2018

MISSOURI VALLEY ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
Memphis - Meeting dates: November 1-3, 2018
(NAFE Session date to be determined)

Look for meeting details inside

Photos from the Summer Board of Directors Meeting dinner:
1) David Tucek and Art Eubank
2) Rachel Brandt, Claire Nieswiadomy and Joan Weinstein

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