

Decision Analysis for Lawyers I: Introducing the Basics

At UC College of Law

Professor Marjorie Corman Aaron

Thursday August 21, 2008

Continental Breakfast at 8:30; Program: 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.
(6.5 CLE hrs. applied for, approval anticipated)

Participants will learn the basics of decision analysis through a practical, interactive, hands-on presentation designed for lawyers or mediators (even the most math phobic). The method's underlying logic will be natural to anyone who thinks about risks and results when assessing a case and discussing it with a client. The math is arithmetic, accessible a third grader. Through a series of exercises and problems, *everyone* will master the "how to's" of decision tree analysis for simple cases, and will see its application in more complex cases. Participants will learn a decision analysis approach to risk and fairness in client counseling, negotiation, and mediation.

Agenda

8:30–9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:15 a.m.	Why Trees When We've Been Making Decisions and Muddling Through Without Them?! Assumptions, Assertions, and Disclaimers.
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	THE BASIC HOW To's!!!! Interactive Lecture
12:00-12:45 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:45-1:45 p.m.	Building and Checking Defense-Plaintiff's Trees
1:45-2:45 p.m.	The Values and Limits of Decision Trees

3:00-5:00 p.m.

More Trees and Applications in a Decision Tree and Counseling Exercise;
Debriefing and Demonstration on Both Sides.