**BIOGRAPHIES of SPEAKERS**

**9/17/2025 ABTL CLE Program**

***The Criminal Trial of Autonomy Corporation’s
Former CEO, Dr. Michael Lynch***

**The Honorable Charles R. Breyer**

**Judge of the United States District Court
Northern District of California**

Judge Breyer received his AB in 1963 from Harvard College and his JD in 1966 from UC Berkeley
School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, he clerked for Oliver J. Carter, chief judge,
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. He then served as an assistant district
attorney in San Francisco until 1973, when he was appointed assistant special prosecutor, Watergate Special Prosecution Force.

He entered private practice in 1974, specializing in the defense of white-collar criminal cases. He

was appointed to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, in 1997 by President Clinton.

In 2011, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States to serve on the Judicial Panel on

Multi-District Litigation. He was appointed by President Obama (with the consent of the Senate) in

2012 to serve as Vice Chairman of the United States Sentencing Commission and re-appointed in

2017 by President Trump.

During his twenty-five-year judicial career, Judge Breyer has presided over a number of criminal

matters implicating foreign concerns such as terrorism, theft of intellectual property, sex trafficking,

and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Additionally, he managed one of the largest civil cases filed

in the United States: Volkswagen’s installation of defeat devices in their diesel vehicles intended

to circumvent environmental laws. Since 1997, Judge Breyer has advised the governments of Egypt,

India, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine on criminal justice and civil case management issues.

In October 2018, he received the prestigious Devitt Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a

United States Article III federal judge. In October 2022, Judge Breyer was appointed as a member

of the Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations by the Chief Justice of the

United States.

*Bio’s continued on next page…*

**Brian Heberlig, Partner
Steptoe LLP**

Brian Heberlig is an accomplished white-collar criminal defense lawyer with more than 25 years of
jury trial experience in complex, high-profile criminal cases nationwide.

Brian is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a three-time winner of The American Lawyer Litigator of the Week. Ranked Band 1 in Chambers USA, he has been described as a "revered member of the DC trial bar" who is "extremely detail-oriented, strategic and very skilled" in the courtroom. Brian's success in a trial involving a rare Rule 29 acquittal earned praise from the presiding federal judge, who described his advocacy as "crisp, cogent, thoughtful," and "some of the best trial work we have ever had the privilege to see in this or any courtroom."

Brian handles matters involving allegations of public corruption, securities and accounting fraud, export controls and sanctions violations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations, theft of intellectual property, antitrust conspiracies, healthcare fraud, money laundering, environmental offenses, and other business crimes.

Brian leads internal investigations on behalf of clients to examine allegations of fraud and misconduct
and handles Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement proceedings, complex commercial litigation, and congressional investigations.

 **The Honorable Robert S. Leach,**

**Judge of the Contra Costa County Superior Court**

Robert S. Leach is a Judge of the Contra Costa County Superior Court.  He was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 9, 2024.

Before his appointment to the Bench, Judge Leach was an Assistant United States Attorney with the
United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California, where he served as Chief of
the Special Prosecutions Section and Deputy Chief of the Corporate and Securities Fraud Section.
As an Assistant United States Attorney, he prosecuted numerous federal crimes, including wire, mail, health care, and securities fraud, money laundering, computer and intellectual property crimes, drug trafficking, firearm offenses, and tax and other crimes.  His cases included United States v. Elizabeth Holmes, United States v. Ramesh Balwani, and United States v. Bassam Salman.

From 2003 to 2012, he served in several roles at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, including Assistant Regional Director, Branch Chief, and Staff Attorney.  At the SEC, he supervised and conducted investigations into possible violations of the federal securities laws, including securities fraud, insider trading, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, lying to auditors, and books and records violations.

Judge Leach also was an Associate at Latham & Watkins from 1998 to 2003, where he represented clients in investigations and disputes, including professional liability, securities, intellectual property, environ-mental, contract, antitrust, unfair competition, and other matters.

From 1997 to 1998, he served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable John G. Davies at the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Leach received his B.A. from Yale College and his J.D. from UCLA School of Law.

**Joshua A. Cohen
Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**

Josh Cohen is a litigation partner and member of the firm’s White Collar & Regulatory Defense Group based in San Francisco. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement, and collateral civil proceedings in federal and state courts in California and nationwide.

Mr. Cohen represents public companies, financial institutions, advisers, and senior executives in high-profile matters involving securities fraud, accounting irregularities, money laundering, commercial bribery, antitrust violations, pharmaceutical marketing, and insider trading. His practice also includes securities class actions, shareholder derivative lawsuits, and complex commercial disputes. He has conducted a number of internal investigations for companies and public and educational institutions.

Mr. Cohen is a recognized first-chair trial lawyer and courtroom advocate. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and ranked by *Chambers USA* (2025) as a top-tier, Band 1 lawyer for White Collar Crime & Government Investigations. In the latest edition of *Chambers*, clients report “Josh is one of the finest white-collar lawyers in the Bay Area. He is really sharp, a great writer, a fantastic strategist and judges love him” and that “Josh is a very savvy lawyer and one of the most effective writers. He is very smart at figuring out effective advocacy with investigators and is also very effective on his feet.” In previous editions of the guide, clients have described him as “A+ at writing briefs and motions,” “able to deliver devastating cross examinations,” and “a legal Tom Brady.” *Lawdragon* recognizes Mr. Cohen as one of the 500 leading lawyers in America, and he has been listed among *U.S. News and World Report’s* Best Lawyers since 2016.

Prior to joining Debevoise, Mr. Cohen was a named partner at a leading white-collar litigation boutique in San Francisco, where he advised public companies and high-level executives on white collar matters. Earlier in his career, he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Northern District of California, where he represented indigent defendants charged with federal crimes ranging from fish-and-game violations to murder.

Mr. Cohen is Chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers Federal Criminal Procedure Committee. He previously sat on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and co-chaired the organization’s White Collar Crime Committee from 2016 to 2018.

Mr. Cohen served as a law clerk to the Hon. Charles R. Breyer on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. He received his J.D. in 2001 from Yale Law School, where he was an Essays Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. He earned his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Williams College in 1996.