Silence for Sale:

THE USES AND ABUSES OF NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS, NON-DISPARAGEMENT CLAUSES, AND SECRET SETTLEMENTS



Friday, March 20, 2020 8:45 am – 5:00 pm

Distinguished Speaker: Burt Neuborne, Professor, New York University School of Law

Widener University Delaware Law School 4601 Concord Pike, Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom Wilmington, Delaware

Promises not to disclose information—often called non-disclosure agreements (NDAs)—are widely used in employment contracts, litigation settlements, and other contexts. In recent years, these agreements have come under intense scrutiny because of mounting evidence that the agreements have been used to suppress information of public concern, including information about sexual predators, dangerously defective products, and compromising details about candidates for public office. At the same time, NDAs are routinely used for legitimate purposes such as protecting trade secrets or sensitive financial information. The challenge is coming up with a regulatory regime—either statutory or judge-made—that effectively separates the wheat of legitimate NDAs from the chaff of illegitimate ones. That is the topic of this symposium, which explores the uses and abuses of contracts that suppress speech.

6 1/2 CLE credits (includes 1 ethics credit) in Delaware and Pennsylvania. New Jersey attorneys can self-report with Widener's Certificate of Attendance. 8:00 am Registration Check-In

8:45-9:00 am Welcome

Rodney A. Smolla, Dean and Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

Rachel Sorrentino, Editor-in-Chief, Widener Law Review

9:00–9:15 am Overview of the Program

Alan E. Garfield, Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

9:15–10:45 am A View from the Trenches: Practitioners Negotiating and Litigating NDAs

Moderator: Luke M. Scheuer, Associate Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

Bebe H. Kivitz, Esquire, Kivitz & Kivitz, P.C. Jeffrey I. Pasek, Esquire, Cozen O'Connor Daniel W. Wolff, Esquire, Crowell & Moring, LLP

10:45–11:00 am Break (with refreshments)

11:00 am -Noon Distinguished Lecture

Burt Neuborne, Professor, New York University School of Law

12:00-12:45 pm Lunch—Barristers' Club

1:00–2:20 pm How Should the Law Regulate NDAs?

Moderator: Stephen E. Friedman, Associate Dean and Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

Miriam A. Cherry, Professor, St. Louis University School of Law

Laurie Doré, Professor, Drake University School of Law

David Hoffman, Professor, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

2:20–3:45 pm Does the First Amendment Limit the Enforcement of NDAs?

Moderator: Alan E. Garfield, Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

Seth Kreimer, Professor, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Burt Neuborne, Professor, New York University School of Law

Rodney A. Smolla, Dean and Professor, Widener University Delaware Law School

3:45-4:00 pm Break

4:00–5:00 pm Ethical Issues in Drafting NDAs

Jon Bauer, Professor, University of Connecticut School of Law

Payment Information— includes continental		Course materials will be distributed electronically.
breakfast & luncheon		Online registration is required at
CLE Registration Fee	\$200	delawarelaw.widener.edu/lawreviewcle.
Widener Law Alumni	\$150	For questions or for accessibility or special needs requests, contact Carol Perrupato at DelawareLawCLE@widener.edu or 302-477-2178.
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