

Madness or Badness: *Duran* and the Evolution of the Insanity Defense in the D.C. Circuit

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Ceremonial Courtroom, 6th Floor, E. Barrett Prettyman
U.S. Courthouse, 3rd Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Francisco Duran, who occasionally claimed to be God, said he fired 29 shots through the White House fence to remove a pernicious “mist” that hung over the White House. The prosecutor called him a disturbed fame-seeker, angry at the government, who could have been faking a mental disorder. That case – and Duran’s 1995 conviction – provide the framework for this program on the evolution of the federal insanity defense.

The program will include a reenactment of the closing arguments on Duran’s insanity defense by the prosecutor and defense counsel who tried the case before District Judge Charles Richey. The reenactment will be followed by a panel discussion assessing the success or futility of Congressional changes in the rules governing the insanity defense after the *John Hinckley* trial. Panelists will also explore the developments in the handling of defendants found not guilty by reason of insanity.



Admission is free.

A reception will follow the program.

Reservations are not required.

Society programs depend on the generosity of members, law firms, and others. Non-members are invited to join the Society or to make a contribution. For information, call 202.216.7346 or visit: www.dcchs.org.

The Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit is a 501(c)(3) organization independent of the Courts.

Setting the Stage

Stephen J. Morse, Professor of Psychiatry and Law in Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania

Reenactment

For the United States, **Eric Dubelier**, now of Reed Smith LLP

For the defendant, **A.J. Kramer**, Federal Public Defender

Sitting as Judge, **Kimberly Brown**, Associate Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law and Law Clerk to Judge Richey

Panel Discussion

Patrick J. Canavan, Chief Executive Officer, St. Elizabeth’s Hospital

Eric Dubelier

A.J. Kramer

Stephen J. Morse