During the social justice protests of 2020, journalists of all types, be they digital, television or print reporters, documentarians, or photographers, found themselves subject to physical restraint and assaults by the police, as well as hostility and criticism from some protestors. In their effort to gather and report the news, these individuals sometimes found it challenging to exercise their First Amendment rights to cover the protests and the law enforcement response, while caught in the middle between the conflicting interests of protestors exercising their First Amendment rights and the demands of the police that their orders be obeyed. This program will address what journalists encountered on the streets during the 2020 protests, the legal issues surrounding their experience, and the
likely impact of the litigation that followed on the First Amendment rights of journalists and others in the future. Speakers will include Robert Balin of Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP, who represents journalists suing the City of New York for damages incurred while covering 2020 protests.

The Documentaries & the Law Lecture Series on Media and the First Amendment, sponsored by Stephanie Abrutyn L’91, considers the impact of the first amendment on documentaries and modern media.

*This program has been approved for 1.5 Substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should make a payment via the online registration link in the amount of $60.00 ($30.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys). In order to receive the appropriate amount of credit, passwords provided throughout the program must be noted in your evaluation form.*

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Panelist Bios

Nimra Azmi, Associate, Davis Wright Tremain
Azmi is a member of the firm's media group where she litigates First Amendment, copyright, trademark, and content-related matters on behalf of news and entertainment companies. In addition to her strong record of copyright and First Amendment work, she is also experienced with leading litigation teams in civil rights litigation before district and appellate courts on matters of national importance like the Muslim Ban.

Rob Balin, Partner, Davis Wright Tremain
Balin represents clients in all aspects of media law, including defamation, privacy, news gathering torts, First Amendment issues, copyright and trademark litigation, and contracts. Rob handles complex litigation for multinational and national corporations, including publishers, broadcasters, and new media. Rob has represented 02138 magazine, adidas, Farrar Straus & Giroux, Thomas Friedman, Henry Holt and Company, Random House, Reader's Digest, St. Martin's Press, Woman's World, Yellow Book USA, and Sing Tao Daily.