

The Fine Line of Funny

Humor is a signal of power — and a professional risk. Most people never learn where the line is.

A keynote with **Ruth Pearce, JD, PCC** — Keynote Speaker & Coach for the Legal Profession

THE PROBLEM

Used well, humor under pressure builds trust, defuses tension, and signals confidence. Used badly, it torches credibility in a single sentence. Lawyers deploy humor constantly — in front of clients, juries, colleagues, and courts — without ever being taught how it actually works. That makes it a liability disguised as charm, and the line between the two is thinner than anyone admits.

WHAT YOU'LL LEAVE WITH

- The three jobs humor does under pressure — and the one that backfires
- Why the same joke builds trust in one room and ends a career in another
- Humor as a character strength — and how to deploy it on purpose
- Where the line is, and how to stay on the right side of it

WHO IT'S FOR

Law firms • bar associations • CLE audiences • law schools

FORMATS

Keynote, 45–60 min • Workshop • After-dinner / plenary

WHY RUTH

A JD who burned out publicly and rebuilt, Ruth speaks from the chair, not above it — practical, evidence-informed, and unmistakably human.

JD

ICF PCC

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Ruth on stage

Bring this talk to your firm, school, or bar association.

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A Lever Long Enough
RUTH S. PEARCE, JD