

Course Syllabus

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY
GMU School of Law
Fall Semester – 2007

Professor Michael L. Davis

Thursday, August 23- 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 1 **INTRODUCTION - OVERVIEW OF COURSE**

1. Handout of course materials
2. Assignment of class projects

Thursday, August 30 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 2 **TRIAL PHILOSOPHY**

1. Civil vs. Criminal
2. Big Client vs. Small Client
3. Effective Voir Dire and Opening Statements
4. Taking control of the Courtroom
5. Judge or Jury

Thursday, September 13 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.*

Class No. 3 **EFFECTIVE VOIR DIRE**

1. Participation by class in *voir dire*.
2. All designated class members must bring at least one “non-legal” juror.

Thursday, September 20 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 4 **DEPOSITIONS**

1. Purpose, philosophy and effect
2. Demonstration

Thursday., September 27 - 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 5 & 6 **Trial # 1**

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated class members must bring at least one “non-legal juror.

Thursday, October 11 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 7 - **EXPERT WITNESSES**
“Live or Die by Them”

1. Do you really need an expert?
2. How to select an expert.
3. Will the court allow the expert to testify?
4. Real life experts in the field of medicine, toxicology, engineering and accident reconstruction
 - a. Class participation in direct and cross examination of expert, followed by direct and cross examination by experienced trial attorneys, followed by critique.

Thursday, October 18

- 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 8

- **DIFFICULT EVIDENTIARY ISSUES**

1. How to get it in
2. How to keep it out
3. Making and preserving the record
4. Exhibits
5. Stipulations
6. Continuing objections
7. Proffers
8. Motions *in limini*

Thursday, October 25

- 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 9

- **CLOSING ARGUMENT**

1. Theme consistent?
2. Can you deliver what you promised?
3. Passion and belief.
4. Are you still in control of the courtroom.

Friday, November 2

- 6:00p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 10 & 11

- **TRIAL NO. 2**

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated class members must bring one “non-legal juror.

Sunday, November 4- 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 12 & 13 - **TRIAL NO. 3**

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated class members must bring one “non-legal” juror.

Friday, November 9 - 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 14 & 15 - **TRIAL NO. 4**

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated class members must bring one “non-legal” juror.