

Course Syllabus

**ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY
GMU School of Law
Fall Semester – 2009**

Professor Michael L. Davis

Thursday, August 20- 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 27 - 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 3 - 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 10 - (No Class)

Thursday, September 17 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.*

Class No. 4 **DEPOSITIONS**

1. Purpose, philosophy and effect
2. Demonstration

Thursday, September 24 - 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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

1. Participation by class in a non-jury trial.
2. All designated class members will team up as lawyers or as witnesses.

Thursday, October 8- 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 22

- 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*

Friday, October 30

- 6:00p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 9 & 10

- **TRIAL NO. 2**

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

Saturday, October 31-

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 11 & 12

- **TRIAL NO. 3**

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

Thursday, November 5

- 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 13

- **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 13

- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 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.