

# **TRIAL ADVOCACY**

LAW 329 – FALL 2009

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

PROFESSORS: JAMES W. KORMAN, HON. BRUCE WHITE

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **I. FIRST TWO CLASS SESSIONS:**

1. INTRODUCTORY LECTURE
  - A. OUTLINE GOALS AND TECHNIQUES OF COURSE
  - B. ORDER OF TRIAL
    - i. EXPLANATION OF EACH STAGE OF TRIAL
2. TRIAL TECHNIQUES
  - A. DETAILED TECHNIQUES FOR:
    - i. VOIR DIRE AND JURY SELECTION
    - ii. PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS
    - iii. OPENING STATEMENT
    - iv. DIRECT EXAMINATION
    - v. CROSS EXAMINATION
    - vi. OBJECTIONS
    - vii. TRIAL MOTIONS
    - viii. JURY INSTRUCTIONS
    - ix. CLOSING ARGUMENT

### **II. SECOND TWO CLASS SESSIONS:**

1. STUDENT TEAMS CONDUCT FIRST TRIAL

### **III. THIRD TWO CLASS SESSIONS:**

1. STUDENT TEAMS CONDUCT SECOND TRIAL

### **IV. SEVENTH CLASS SESSION:**

1. LECTURE
  - A. REFINE TECHNIQUES
  - B. PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE
  - C. EXPERT EVIDENCE

### **V. EIGHTH & NINTH CLASS SESSIONS:**

1. STUDENT TEAMS CONDUCT THIRD TRIAL

## **VI. LECTURE & DEMONSTRATION**

A. PRE-TRIAL DISCOVERY

B. DEPOSITION, EXPERT WITNESS DEMONSTRATION

### **FINAL CLASS SESSION CLOSING LECTURE**

N.B.:

A. The precise schedule of trials and lectures may be varied depending upon the number of students in the class, and the amount of class time needed to try and critique each case.

B. At the conclusion of each trial, the performance of the “trial attorneys” is critiqued in detail by the students and by the professors.