Course Syllabus

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY
GMU School of Law
Fall Semester – 2012

Professor Michael L. Davis

Thursday, August 16 - 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 23 - 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, August 30 (No Class)

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

Class No. 4   **DEPOSITIONS**

1. Purpose, philosophy and effect
2. Demonstration

Thursday, September 20   (No Class)

Thursday, September 27    -       6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 5   **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 4    -       6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 6   **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 11    -       6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 7   **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*

**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?

**Thursday, October 18**

6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 8

**APPELLATE ISSUES**

1. Matter of right or discretionary?
2. What is the “record”?
3. What is prejudicial error?
4. Examples of Appeal

**Friday, October 26**

6:00 p.m.---10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 9 & 10

**TRIAL NO. 2**

1. Participation by class form *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated students must bring at least one (1) “non-legal” juror.
Saturday, October 27 - 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.

Friday, November 2 - 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.
ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY  
(331-001)  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
Fall Semester 2012

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Thursday, August 16       6:00 – 7:50 PM
Thursday, August 23       6:00 – 7:50 PM
Thursday, August 30       (No Class)
Thursday, September 6     6:00 – 7:50 PM*
Thursday, September 13    6:00 – 7:50 PM
Thursday, September 20    (No Class)
Thursday, September 27    6:00 – 7:50 PM
Thursday, October 4       6:00 – 7:50 PM* Trial #1 (non-jury)
Thursday, October 11      6:00 – 7:50 PM
Thursday, October 18      6:00 – 7:50 PM
Friday, October 26        6:00-10:00 PM (Trial #2)*
Saturday, October 27      9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Trial #3)*
Friday, November 2         6:00 PM – 10:00 PM (Trial #4)*

*Designated students are required to bring at least one non-legal juror.