Course Syllabus

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY
GMU School of Law
Spring Semester – 2012

Professor Michael L. Davis

Thursday, January 12  -  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, January 19  -  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, January 26  -  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, February 2 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 4

**Trial No. 1** (Non-jury)

1. Fact Pattern to be supplied.

Thursday, February 9 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 5

**DEPOSITIONS**

1. Purpose
2. Effect
3. Mock deposition

Thursday, February 16 - 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, February 23 - 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. Exhibits
Thursday, March 1 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No.8 - **MAKING AND PRESERVING THE RECORD**

1. Continuous objections
2. Stipulations
3. Proffers
4. Motions *in limine*
5. Requests for Admission

**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, March 23 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 9 & 10 - **TRIAL No. 2** (JURY)

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

Saturday, March 24 - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 11 & 12 - **TRIAL NO. 3** (JURY)

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.
2. All designated class members **must** bring one “non-legal” juror.
Friday, March 30  -   6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Classes No. 13 & 14  -  **TRIAL NO. 4** (JURY)

1. Participation by class from *voir dire* to verdict.

2. All designated class members **must** bring one “non-legal” juror.

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Thursday, January 12  -  Class 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Thursday, January 19  -  Class 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Thursday, January 26  -  Class 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.*

Thursday, February 2  -  Class 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m. - **Trial #1 (non jury)**

Thursday, February 9  -  Class 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Thursday, February 16  -  Class 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

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

Thursday, March 1  -  Class 6:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Thursday, March 10  -  **No Class** (Spring Recess)

Friday, March 23  -  Class 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - **Trial #2 (jury)**

Saturday, March 24  -  Class 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. – **Trial #3 (jury)**

Friday, March 30  -  Class 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - **Trial #4 (jury)**

* All designated class members **must** bring at least one “non legal” juror to these classes.