Course Syllabus

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY
GMU School of Law
Spring Semester – 2014

Professor Michael L. Davis

Thursday, January 9
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 16
- 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 23
- 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, January 30** - 6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Class No. 4  **Trial No. 1** (Non-jury)

1. Fact Pattern to be supplied.

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

Class No. 5  **DEPOSITIONS**

1. Purpose
2. Effect
3. Mock deposition

**Thursday, February 13** - 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 20** - 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, February 27 - 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 21 6:00p.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 22 - 9:00a.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 28  -  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.