



FALL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: 328-002
Course Title: Trial Advocacy
Credit Hours: 2
Grading Mode: CR/Non-CR
Meeting Time(s): TUE 6:05-8:05P
Meeting Mode: ON CAMPUS
Exam Time(s): N/A
Exam Mode: N/A
Prerequisite(s): Law 222: Evidence
Corequisite(s): N/A
Instructor(s):
Judge Karen Henenberg | John Boneta

Contact Info:
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Reading(s) & Supplement(s):

- Case File – State v. Sanchez (3rd Ed.) 2025
- Modern Trial Advocacy Analysis and Practice” by Lubet and Lore, Sixth Edition

Course Overview

The goal for this course is for students to learn the basic legal principles and rules to successfully conduct a courtroom trial. Students will observe and perform exercises, in person and/or virtually, in all aspects of the trial of a criminal case.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this class, students will be able to conduct a successful and effective Voir Dire of potential jurors, prepare and present an Opening Statement and Closing Argument, conduct thorough Direct Examinations and Cross Examinations of witnesses, and demonstrate that they can qualify a witness as an Expert Witness. Students will develop an extensive knowledge of the Rules of Evidence and demonstrate their knowledge of how to apply the Rules of Evidence in a trial setting.

Classroom Policies

Attendance: Per AR 3-1.4, “maintenance of matriculation requires regular class preparation, participation and attendance, registration in the course of study required for the student’s program (full-time or part-time), successive registration for each fall and spring term of each academic year until study is completed, and compliance with all other relevant requirements.”

Absences: Per AR 4-1.1, “if a student is absent for any reason for more than 20 percent of the sessions of a course, the student is not eligible for credit in that course. A student who is not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course is absent from that session.”

Participation & Preparation:

Class attendance and class participation will be considered in calculating a student’s ability to successfully pass this course. Students will be expected to have read the required materials for class, and be prepared for class exercises, and to be effective and successful in the demonstration of their trial skills during class and at the final trial.

Use of Technology & AI:

Strict Use Policy: The use of generative AI tools is not permitted for any coursework in this course. Unauthorized use will be treated as a violation of academic standards.

Course Schedule & Assignments

Week 1:

Date: 8/19

Topic (s): Trial Basics and Objections

***Read before first class*:** In “Modern Trial Advocacy Analysis and Practice” by Lubet and Lore, Sixth Edition, Pages 1-55; 251-294

Week 2:

Date: 8/26

Topic (s): Direct and Cross Examination

Pages 57-92; 93-153

Week 3:

Date: 9/2

Topic (s): Direct and Cross Examination

Week 4:

Date: 9/9

Topic (s): Impeachment

Pages 155-204

Week 5:

Date: 9/16

Topic (s): Redirect/Refresh Recollection

Pages 205-209; 61-62; 161

Week 6:

Date: 9/23

Topic (s): Experts

Pages 211-250

Week 7:

Date: 9/30

Topic (s): Foundations & Exhibits

Pages 295-366

Week 8:

Date: 10/7

Topic (s): Foundations & Exhibits

Week 9:

Date: 10/14

Topic (s): Opening Statements

Pages 409-459

Week 10:

Date: 10/21

Topic (s): Opening Statements/ Closing Arguments
Pages 461-517

Week 11:

Date: 10/28

Topic (s): Closing Arguments

Week 12:

Date: 11/11

Topic (s): Jury Selection/ Final Trial Preparation
Pages 519-539

Week 13:

Date: 11/18

Topic (s): Final Trial

Student Resources

[Antonin Scalia Law School Academic Regulations](#)

[GMU Common Course Policies Addendum](#)

[Mason Square Services](#)

[Mason Square Police](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room 110

Emergency - Dial 911

Escort Services - 703-993-8070

Dispatch – 703-993-2810

[Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#)

Mason Square Sexual Assault Services:

Van Metre Hall, Room 222D

703-993-8186

Notice of Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Interpersonal Violence, and Stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If a student wishes to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703 -380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703 -993-2380. Students may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703 -993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

[Mason Square Clinic](#)

Van Metre Hall, Room B102

703-991-2831

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Disability Services](#)

[Student Conduct](#)

[University Life](#)