

TRIAL ADVOCACY FOR COMPETITORS
Law 329 (2 credits)
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Spring 2022 – Thursday 8:05 p.m. – 10:05 p.m.

The purpose of this course is to (1) build on skills learned during core classes such as evidence and LRWA and apply them to real life trial practice (2) to focus intensively on the preparation and delivery of all parts of a jury trial in connection with participation in an extramural trial advocacy competition.

Taking this course should help you to:

- Understand the parts of a jury trial and the expectations of a trial level court
- Work as part of a team to break-down a complex legal case involving a criminal or civil issue
- Formulate a theme, draft opening statements, closing arguments, and direct and cross examinations
- Develop trial advocacy skills that can be applied to other competitions and trial level practice in the future

Suggested Texts:

Mauet, Trial Techniques
Federal Rules of Evidence

Schedule:

1/20 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIONS – What is competition format and what to expect including expectations, coaches, practice schedules

1/27 - THEMES – What is a theme? Theory v. theme, labels, and storytelling in the context of a competition

2/3 – NTC/COSTELLO WEEKEND or team practice

2/10 – CROSS EXAMINATION AND EVIDENCE – Leading the witness, courtroom positioning, object of cross, demonstrations of entering evidence

2/17 – OBJECTIONS AND CLOSING – What is proper objection? Content of closing

2/24 – EXPERTS – Why do we use experts? Order of questions and cross examination of experts

3/3 – DIRECT EXAMINATIONS – Being a facilitator, courtroom positioning, best

way to create questions, and looping

3/10 – AAJ WEEKEND or team practice

3/17 – SPRING RECESS

3/24 – COMPETITION DEBRIEF – What worked well and what didn't? What did you learn and what would you change?

3/31 – SKILLS PRACTICE***

4/7 – SKILLS PRACTICE***

4/14 – SKILLS PRACTICE***

4/21 – SEMESTER WRAP-UP

****The subject matter and content of each class is subject to change and dependent on the competition schedule and the needs of the teams. Part of the class will consist of instruction and the other part of class is intended to be use to prepare for your competition. You are expected to come prepared for class and to be prepared for your competition. Your coaches will set expectations and timelines of goals that you should be meeting before your practices. There will be various check-ins to make sure you are meeting those goals and are prepared for practice.**

*****The classes devoted to skills practice will involve a trial exercise that each student is expected to participate in. You will be emailed ahead of time with further instructions for each class.**