

Syllabus for Trial Advocacy - Spring Term, 2024
Judge Rossie D. Alston, Jr. (contact information to be provided)
Judge William Jarvis (contact information to be provided)

Learning Goals, Outcomes and Assessment for Trial Advocacy:

Learning Goals: The goal for this course is for students to learn the basic legal rules applicable to being a successful courtroom litigator. Students will also be exposed (where circumstances permit) to interactive exercises in all aspects of the trial of a criminal and civil case.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to conduct a successful voir dire, present an opening statement and closing argument, understand and conduct a thorough direct examination, cross-examination, and be able to qualify an expert witness. Students will also gain an enhanced understanding of the Rules of Evidence based on the text and intent behind the rules.

Assessment: Class attendance and participation (by virtue of either cold calling or volunteering) will also be taken into account in calculating a student's ability to successfully pass this course. As this class is very interactive, students will be expected to have prepared for class exercises and the role-playing exercises necessary to become effective courtroom advocates.

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
01/22/24	Introduction, Trials - Overview Objections	<i>*Nutshell pages 344-447; Class Overview</i>
01/29/24	Use of Exhibits	<i>Class Exercises</i>
02/05/24	Jury Selection and Voir Dire	<i>*The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011</i>
02/12/24	Lecture: Direct and Cross Examination	<i>The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011</i>
02/19/24	Direct and Cross Examination II	<i>Nutshell pages 139- 197</i>
02/26/24	Direct and Cross Examination III	<i>Nutshell pages 240- 280</i>
03/11/24	Evidence	Evidence – Itell-materials to be provided by instructors
03/18/24	Impeachment	<i>Nutshell pages 290-333</i>
03/25/24	Impeachment, Redirect Motions in Limine	<i>Nutshell pages 335-343</i>
04/01/24	Experts, Arguing Legal Positions	<i>Nutshell pages 449-480</i>
04/08/24	Opening Statements (All Motions in Limine to be filed) Trial Preparation	<i>The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 22 Number 4, 2011</i> <i>Nutshell pages 92-135</i>

04/15/24	Closing Arguments (All Oppositions to Motions in Limine to be filed)	<i>Nutshell pages 485-511</i>
Week of 04/22/24	Trials – Format, Location and mode TBD	<i>*The Art and Science of Mastering the Jury Trial</i>

*The major reading resources will be:

--*Trial Advocacy in a Nutshell* – 6th Edition

--*The Journal of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association*, Volume 22, Number 4, 2011, can be purchased directly from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (VTLA) at:

<https://www.vtla.com/index.cfm?pg=store&sa=ViewDetails&ItemID=12933&cat=2531>

--*The Art and Science of Mastering the Jury Trial* by Judge Samuel Johnson and Irv Cantor