

Trial Law



Program Highlights

- Assume the role of trial attorney as you try a challenging case by researching evidence, preparing and crafting arguments, and preparing and examining witnesses
- Experience a unique view of the legal profession that is personal and insightful from seasoned lawyers or legal scholars
- Explore all roles of a challenging case acting as defense attorneys, prosecutors, witnesses, jurors, or judge

Campus Locations

Georgetown University

- July 27 - August 8, 2020

UC Berkeley

- June 21 - July 3, 2020
- July 5 - July 17, 2020
- July 19 - July 31, 2020

Yale University

- June 21 - July 3, 2020
- July 5 - July 17, 2020
- July 19 - August 31, 2020

Boston

- July 5–July 17, 2020
- July 19–July 31, 2020

UC San Diego

- July 26 - August 7, 2020

American University

- June 28- July 8, 2020
- July 12 - July 24, 2020

Academic Course Overview

In their first class, students will be introduced to a challenging case. Over the course of the entire program, they will fight for their side's victory until the final decision is ultimately made by the judge. Along the way, the legal teams need to select a jury, craft and present opening arguments, and explain evidence, as well as prepare witnesses for cross-examinations and finish with a strong closing argument. By using an experiential learning approach, students will quickly engage in the topic, and the instructor introduces the underlying theory and concepts as students tackle these issues while trying to win their case.

Guest Speakers & Excursions

Last summer, students met with Mike Thompson who led them on a behind the scenes tour of the Law school, and also visited the Chief Justice of the local Superior Court. Students received a one-of-a-kind experience as a first-hand witness to a sentence hearing at the New Haven County Courthouse. Students also got to spend time with Judge Brian Fisher, a

judge on the New Haven District Superior Court in Connecticut. In addition, they heard from the state attorney and public defender attorneys to get all perspectives from the justice system. Students got to try on the Judge's robe and sit in the jury booth while learning about courtroom proceedings.

Instructors

Courses are taught by accomplished and passionate faculty recruited from many area colleges, universities and professional forums. Each faculty member is selected for their subject area expertise and proven ability to both challenge and captivate students.

Curriculum Advisor - Stuart Rennert, J.D.

While instructors vary each year, the Curriculum Advisors ensure continuity in our curriculum. This course was designed by Stuart Rennert, a partner at McKool Smith, P.C. in Washington, DC with more than twenty-five years of experience litigating and trying complex litigation cases. Previously, he helped lead the United States' RICO case against major cigarette manufacturers, United States v. Philip Morris, as a member of the United States Department of Justice. Professor Rennert is a graduate of Harvard Law School, has studied at the London School of Economics, and received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College.

Class Overview

This is only to provide a general idea of the class structure. The exact sequence of lessons will change based on availability of guest speakers and on companies that can host our students.

Day 1. Monday

- Class expectations
- What is Trial Law?
- Discuss the American legal system and its traditions
- Learn the lexicon and terminology

Day 2. Tuesday

- Legal Ethics
- Case studies where ethics played a role in the final decision
- Discuss jury selection
- Practice selecting a jury after reviewing a case

Day 3. Wednesday

- Learn what is included and should be avoided in opening and closing arguments
- Craft arguments based off a challenging case
- Practice presenting the arguments in front of others

Day 4. Thursday

- Discuss rules of evidence
- What makes evidence unusable in court?
- What exactly is an objection and when can a lawyer use it?

Day 5. Friday

- Site Visit
- Visit a law school campus or courtroom
- What steps should students interested in attending law school take?

Day 6. Monday

- Why are witnesses important and what is their role in the courtroom?
- How do lawyers choose witnesses
- Select witnesses and prepare them for cross-examinations

Day 7. Tuesday

- Guest speaker
- Speaker will share his or her career path
- Introduce students to a wide range of careers available in the field
- Student Q&A

Day 8. Wednesday

- Finalize opening and closing statements and evidence research
- Ensure witnesses are fully prepped
- Prepare for trial



Day 9. Thursday

- Trial Simulation
- The instructor will act as the judge and make a ruling on the case

Tuition

- **Residential Students:** \$4,998
 - Includes: all meals, lodging, Excursions, academic program, weekend excursions
 - Excludes: optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Commuter Students:** \$2,798
 - Includes: academic program, Excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
 - Excludes: lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
- **Extended Commuter Students:** \$3,398
 - Includes: lunch, dinner, Excursions, academic program, programming from 9am to 8pm, weekend excursions
 - Excludes: lodging, breakfast