

# **L. Michaele Tobin**

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

### **University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law**

November 2011 to Present.

Clinical Professor of Law (September 2020 – Present)

Associate Clinical Professor of Law (August 2016 – 2020)

Visiting Associate Professor of Law (August 2012 – 2016)

Advocacy Fellow (November 2011 – August 2012)

### **Courses Taught:**

Trial Advocacy I – Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

(60 – 65 students per class)

A two-hour elective course covering the basics of trial practice. Students meet in a large group every Thursday and then meet the beginning of the following week in a small group. The large group lecture covers a particular trial skill and then the students perform that particular skill in their small groups. The large group is taught by me. The eight small groups are taught by seventeen adjuncts and myself. Students learn trial skills from the beginning of a case with case analysis to the end of a case with post trial matters. In addition to teaching the large group lecture and a small group, my responsibilities include recruiting and organizing adjunct professors, creating the course syllabus, creating lesson plans, and creating visual presentations for each lecture. The presentations I have created for each trial skill include performances from actual trials and are available for review.

Evidence – Summer 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021; Fall 2018, 2020, 2021; Spring 2020 (29 – 76 students per class)

A three-hour required course covering the Federal Rules of Evidence. In addition to teaching, my responsibilities include creating the syllabus, lesson plans, and a power point presentation for each day of class. The presentations I have created for each topic are available for review.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE CONTINUED:**

### **Courses Taught:**

Trial Advocacy II – Spring 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (16 – 24 students per class)

A three hour elective course focused on advancing the skills of trial practice. This course teaches students how to build on the basic skills learned in Trial Advocacy I by making them more persuasive. Through skill performances and drills students discover how to be better advocates by learning to embrace their presentation style, how to enhance their skills of persuasion, how to analyze cases in more depth, how to organize direct and cross more effectively, how to present a compelling story in opening statement, and how to persuasively argue in closing argument.

Seminar in Famous Trials – Spring 2019, 2021, 2022 (33 – 62 students per class)

A three hour elective course covering famous trials in history. A trial is covered each week of class. One day of class takes an in depth look at the trial scheduled for the week. The second day of class is a group discussion on what we can learn from the trial about advocacy, ethics, professionalism, etc., to become better attorneys.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE CONTINUED:

### Law School Activities:

#### Show Me Challenge Competition (2013 – 2019)

Co-Creator with Professor Rafe Foreman of the only trial competition in the country that focuses on the jury selection process. The competition is two days each spring that brings together sixteen teams from across the country to compete. In addition to the seventy-five students and coaches, over thirty attorneys volunteer their time to judge and over two hundred and fifty members of the community participate as jurors. I am responsible for all aspects of the competition other than recruiting the attorneys. In addition to organizing the hundreds of people involved, I am responsible for the 2 banquets held, the feeding of all participants during the competition, and the awards ceremony.

#### UMKC Mock Trial Team Coach (2011- Present)

Teach and coach an average of three mock trial teams per semester. Each team is required to practice with me ten (10) hours per week. In addition, each student team member meets with me weekly for individual coaching.

#### Competitions Coached:

American Association for Justice - STAC (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 Finalist, 2016, 2017, 2018, Semi-Finalist 2019, Champion 2020, Champion 2021, 2022)  
National - American Association for Justice – STAC (2021)  
National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition (2012, 2013 Semi-Finalist, 2014, 2017 Semi-Finalist, 2018, 2019)  
Attorney General's Cup (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019)  
National Trial Advocacy Competition (2012)  
National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition (2012)  
National Trial Competition (2013, 2017, 2020 Semi-Finalist and Finalist, 2021, 2022)  
National – National Trial Competition (2018)  
National Pretrial Competition (2013, 2017, 2018, 2021)  
Jury Trial Challenge (2013)  
Judge Kelly Invitational Trial Competition (2014 Finalist, 2015 Semi-Finalist, 2016)  
Buffalo Niagara Trial Competition (2014, 2015 Semi-Finalist, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021)  
South Texas Challenge (2015 Octo-Finalist, 2022)  
Puerto Rico Trial Advocacy Competition (2016 Semi-Finalist)  
Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition (2019)  
NBTA/Tournament of Champions (2019)  
Summit Cup (2020)  
National All-Star Challenge (2020, 2021)  
Prosecuting Attorney's Cup (Champion 2021)

Student Affairs Committee (2021-2022)  
Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2020-2021)  
Marketing and Communications Committee (2016 – 2017)  
Admissions Committee (2015 – 2020)  
Curriculum Committee (2013 – 2014, 2018-2019)  
Career Services and Transition to Practice Committee (2012 - 2013)  
Regular and active participant in law school activities, such as faculty presentations, moot court judge, and student organizations events.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE CONTINUED:**

### **Presentations and Papers:**

Ethics of a Jury Trial – Presentation for MO Bar CLE, The Trial Experience, June 2017, June 2018, May 2019.

Collecting, Admitting, & Using Electronic Evidence – Presentation for the MO Juvenile Justice Association, 2017 Spring Educational Conference, May 2017.

Examination of Experts Under the Federal Rules of Evidence – Group leader for the practice sessions for participants to direct and cross an expert, hosted by the Federal Aviation Administration, June 2016.

Storytelling: Advocacy in Action - Presentation for IAAO (International Association of Assessing Officers), Preparation and Trial of the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Seminar, June 2014.

John Engle vs. Midwest Gypsum, Inc. – 2019 Show Me Challenge Competition Case co-written with Ashley M. Crisafulli.

State of Jackson vs. Theresa M. Franklin – 2018 Show Me Challenge Competition Case.

Kenny A. Erickson vs. Raymond S. Goodman and Donald K. Goodman – 2017 Show Me Challenge Competition Case.

United States of America vs. Henry John Wayne, Jr. – 2016 Show Me Challenge Competition Case.

Pearl J. Carson vs. Petticoat County Sheriff's Department and County of Petticoat - 2015 Show Me Challenge Competition Case co-written with S. Rafe Foreman

State of Jackson vs. Anthony Miller – 2014 Show Me Challenge Competition Case co-written with Kenneth D. Kinney.

Geraldine Degeneres Odama vs. Bluemound Blood Bank and Anthony Alexa – 2013 Show Me Challenge Competition Case co-written with S. Rafe Foreman.

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE:**

### **L. Michaele Tobin, Attorney at Law, L.L.C.**

Experience as a sole proprietor with practice areas of domestic relations and criminal defense. Responsibilities included all aspects of a law practice from office management to client development to advocating for clients in court proceedings.

February 2010 to November 2011.

### **Smith, Montgomery & Associates, P.C.**

Experience in a six attorney law firm with areas of practice including domestic relations, criminal defense, personal injury, bankruptcy, and social security disability. Responsibilities included client development and care, office management, court appearances, depositions, pre-trial proceedings, settlement negotiations, and trials. Represented clients in several bench trials, administrative hearings, and two felony jury trials.

February 2005 to February 2010.

### **Missouri State Public Defender**

Experience in criminal defense representing indigent defendants in all stages of the trial process. Responsibilities included advising clients, researching issues, court appearances, pre-trial motion preparations and hearings, trial preparations, and trials. Represented clients in many bench trials and forty-two felony jury trials.

August 1996 to February 2005.

### **A. Howard Chamberlin, Attorney at Law**

Experience in a small law firm with areas of practice including personal injury, domestic relations, criminal defense, business, and banking. Responsibilities included researching, preparing legal documents, client meetings, drafting motions

and briefs, and court appearances.

May 1994 to August 1996.

### **Appellate Advocacy Course, Professor Deborah Daniels**

Experience in the appellate court process: preparing briefs for the Criminal Division of the Missouri Attorney General's office.

August 1993 to December 1993.

### **Jackson County Prosecutor's Office**

Experience in the criminal law area (Drug Related Crimes Division): researching issues, writing memorandums, and analyzing cases.

June 1993 to August 1993.

### **The Honorable Charles Shangler, Court of Appeals - Western District**

Experience in the appellate court system: researching issues and writing memorandums for appellate decisions.

May 1992 to August 1992.

## **EDUCATION:**

**University of Missouri - Columbia School of Law, J.D., May 1994**

### Activities

Board of Advocates  
National Moot Court Regional Competition (Quarterfinalist)  
Moot Court Competition (Semifinalist)  
National Trial Competition (Semifinalist)  
Mediation Training  
Negotiation Competition  
Client Counseling Competition  
Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity  
Worked 15-20 hours per week outside of school

### Awards and Honors

Order of Barristers  
Allen H. Parke Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy  
National Moot Court Prize  
Dean's List

**University of Missouri - Columbia, B.A., Political Science, May 1991**

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Western Trial Advocacy Institute, June 2000  
Trial Lawyers College, July 2012  
Educating Advocates: Teaching Advocacy Skills, (Each year since 2014)  
American University Coaches & Competitions Clinic, August 2019

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Missouri Bar and Western District of Missouri Federal Court, October 1994  
Kansas Bar and Eastern District of Kansas Federal Court, April 1995  
Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association