Introduction to Appellate Advocacy  
(Note: This course was formerly called Appellate Advocacy II)

Course Number:  8747
Professor:  Dean Suni

Essential Prerequisites:  Lawyering Skills II (or the equivalent for transfer students)

Desirable Prerequisites:  None

Course Books:  TBD. On-line handbook will likely be distributed.

Method of Grading & Appraisal of Student for Grade:
Credit/No Credit based on written submission and oral presentations

Summary Description of Course:
Introduction to Appellate Advocacy is a one-credit course that meets during the first half of the semester and culminates in student presentation of oral arguments. The course does not require writing a brief; rather, it introduces students to a unique Missouri appellate practice (Points Relied On) and students are required to write Points and a Summary of Argument (three-page total) on each side of a case set in the Missouri Supreme Court. They then argue the case twice (once on each side) in front of panels of lawyers. The arguments take place in the Jackson County Courthouse two Saturdays in October or early November. The top sixteen students in this course, based on 25% written submission and 75% oral presentation, are invited to participate in Appellate Advocacy: Ellison Moot Court Competition, a two credit course, in the spring semester.

Course Content:
The substantive content of the App. Ad. II problem is determined by the Student Coordinator, who writes the problem in conjunction with the course professor.

The primary course content is instruction in appellate argument, with a specific focus on Missouri. Content includes class instruction, preparation of written Points and summary, and presentation of oral arguments.

Expected Course Outcomes:
Students will be able to draft a Point Relied On that is in compliance with Mo. Sup. Ct. R. 84.04. Students will have a better understanding of the appellate process, particularly in Missouri. They will also be more comfortable constructing an argument and presenting it orally, and more able to defend their position in the face of questioning.

Relevancy of Course for Career Purposes:
Developing and practicing oral advocacy skills is of value to any student, since the skills of developing an argument for an identified audience, tailoring that argument to the audience and defending that argument are very important skills for all lawyers. For any student interested in litigation, development of these particular skills in this context is even more important.

Important Note: Any student who might like to participate in any appellate competition while at UMKC should seriously consider taking Introduction to Appellate Advocacy. Not only does it help you develop important skills that you will use in competition, but the selection methods for some of the competitions take into account participation and performance in this course.

Students who are interested in participating on the National Moot Court Team must take Introduction to Appellate Advocacy as 2L’s, since the Team is selected from those participating in Appellate Advocacy: Ellison Moot Court Competition, and participation in that course is based on performance in Introduction to Appellate Advocacy.