COURSE NAME: TRIAL ADVOCACY I

COURSE NUMBER: 8700

PROFESSOR: S. RAFE FOREMAN

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: ALL FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, CIVIL PROCEDURE I & II, EVIDENCE (CO-REQUISITE)

REQUIRED COURSE BOOKS:
1) “FUNDAMENTAL TRIAL ADVOCACY” by Charlie H. Rose III (West)
2) “ADVOCACY CASE FILES” by Charlie H. Rose III (West)
3) “FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE WITH OBJECTIONS” by Anthony J. Bocchino and David A. Sonenshein (NITA)

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
PASS/FAIL – Based on evaluation of learned trial skills.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
A “skills course” in which students learn the fundamentals of trying a civil and/or criminal case. All students meet Thursday evening to hear a lecture or view a demonstration of an aspect of trial (voir dire, opening, direct examination, cross examination, exhibits, closing arguments, etc.). Students will also meet in small groups (lead by experienced attorneys, Judges, or professors) to learn to perform the particular trial skills. The course ends with a mock trial performed at a courthouse or the courtroom here at the school.

This course teaches the essential basic trial skills and is a prerequisite for Trial Advocacy II.

COURSE CONTENT:
Motions/briefs/pleadings and witness preparation as well as theory and theme development are essential outcomes for this course.
COURSE OUTCOMES/LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Know the basics of how to try a case
- Have your first exposure to critical thinking about what evidence/witnesses/testimony can help and/or hurt your case
- Know how a trial proceeds from beginning to end; from voir dire to closing arguments
- Master skills of direct, cross, closing, opening, and voir dire
- Master skills of theory and theme development

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

Whether you desire to be a Trial Lawyer or to simply appear in Court, this course will teach you the basics.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:

Evidence is tested on the bar exam. This course reinforces knowledge of the rules of evidence. Also, this course teaches rules of civil and criminal procedure which are tested on the bar exam. Finally this course allows you to gain context and application for torts, contracts, property, and other essential courses.