

Trial Advocacy – Experiential Supplement (Fall 2025) – Course Schedule

- This course is a one-credit-hour supplement to the Trial Advocacy (LAWS 679) sections for the Fall 2025 semester. It will teach students communication skills, “soft skills” of advocacy, and the use of courtroom technology.
- The course will be delivered in six, two-hour classes on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. (Note. While the classes are on consecutive weeks, there will be no class on September 19, 2025.)
- We will *not* use a casebook. All course materials will be provided in electronic format through TWEN.

Date	Class	Topics
Aug. 22, 2025	1	Getting to Know Each Other, Course Overview, and First Steps. For this first class, we will meet, greet, look at an overview of this experiential part of your Trial Advocacy course, and do some warm-up exercises that will help you develop your courtroom persona and storytelling skills. (Fridays at 8:00 a.m. can be fun!)
Aug. 29, 2025	2	The Soft Skills of Advocacy Becoming a good litigator is more than just knowing the nuts and bolts that your Trial Advocacy professors will give you. You need to know some other courtroom skills, such as the psychology of persuasion, acting, and techniques to help you focus, handle paperwork, and take notes. We’ll continue our discussion of storytelling, and you’ll learn how to improve your memory.
Sept. 5, 2025	3	Communication Skills Sharpen your communications skills by focusing on the Who, What, and How of trial presentations. Who are these jurors and how do I connect with them? Is my content interesting and relatable? How do I deliver intentionally to keep the jury’s attention? We’ll also address nerves and prepare the body to stand and deliver.
Sept. 12, 2025	4	Effective Use of PowerPoint at Trial We live in a TikTok world of short attention spans. You’ll learn how to capture the jurors’ attention by using PowerPoint to create engaging and persuasive openings and closings, as well as how to create demonstrative exhibits designed to help a jury better understand evidence.

Sept. 26, 2025	5	<p>Technology at Trial Jurors watch the iterations of <i>CSI</i> on TV and have come to expect a “high-tech” presentation of your case. You’ll learn about the key questions attorneys should ask when making decisions about using technology at trial. In addition, you’ll learn ways to save time in the courtroom by using technology, including how electronic trial presentation software makes presenting evidence more efficient and effective.</p>
Oct. 2, 2025	6	<p>Experiential Workshop: Putting it All Together Each student will make a presentation incorporating technology to a small group for about five minutes, applying the skills they learned throughout the course. Students will receive feedback from each other and experienced trial attorneys. This last class is your chance to shine!</p>