UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
SUMMER 2012 SYLLABUS

Course: Trial Advocacy
LAW 825
Section 512

Instructor: FRANK D. GIORNO
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Days/Time: Tuesday and Thursday – 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Location: 208

Course Description: This course is devoted primarily to exercises by students in direct and cross-examination of witnesses and to opening statement and closing argument in both civil and criminal cases. The exercises are critiqued with respect to both substantive and courtroom demeanor.
Prerequisite: Evidence [Limited Enrollment] (Maximum 12 students)

Course Materials: Bocchino, Problems In Trial Advocacy (2011 Edition) - Required
Federal Rules of Evidence - Recommended

Course Objectives and Outcomes: (or Concepts and Goals): Exposure to Trial Advocacy techniques and practical application of rules of evidence to the trial of cases.

Grades: Grades will be based upon preparation and presentation of 2 class performances and a presentation of an Opening Statement or a Closing Argument, in the role of an attorney. These will be weighted equally. There is also a substantial expectation of class participation.

Assignments/Participation: The student is expected to prepare and present all assigned problems, including witnesses, and props (if necessary – i.e. charts or diagrams, facsimiles of real or demonstrative evidence that may be part of a presentation). In addition, students will be expected to participate in role-playing as witnesses and in peer evaluations.

Attendance: Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor [Attendance Policy http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=267]. A student who exceeds the maximum allowable absences may be compelled to withdraw from the course A student who is compelled to withdraw may receive an “F” in the course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A student who is present but unprepared for class may be treated as absent.
Computers: Students may use laptop computers for class related purposes.

Class Cancellation: If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore web page or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is not closed, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

ASSIGNMENTS

Problem assignments and role playing designations will be forthcoming during the first or second week of class. The first three or four classes will be devoted to a lecture/Socratic format in reviewing the rules of evidence and discussing advocacy techniques and skills.

Academic Integrity: Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or the School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; misuse of library materials; use of another’s book or study materials without consent; unapproved multiple submissions; material misrepresentation of one’s academic history or standing; misrepresentation of any academic matter; intentionally giving another student false or inaccurate information about class requirements; inappropriate discussion of exams; and misrepresenting or falsifying class attendance reports. [Reference to School of Law Honor Code http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=477 ]

Disability Policy
If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Leslie Metzger, Director for Student Support in the Office of Academic Affairs at 410-516-5623 or via email at lmetzger@ubalt.edu.