COURSE NAME & NUMBER: Trial Advocacy I, Law 700--all sections

Professor:

Prerequisite: Civil Procedure I & II; Evidence (may be a co-requisite)

Method of Grading and Appraisal:
Evaluation of work product and role-playing. Pass/fail (satisfies residency requirement)

Summary Description of Course:
A "skills course" in which students learn the fundamentals of trying a civil and 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, introduction of exhibits, closing argument, etc.) and then meet in small break out groups lead by an experienced lawyer or trial judge during which students perform exercises and are critiqued. The course ends with a mock trial performed at a courthouse.

This course stresses the basics and is a prerequisite for Trial Advocacy II offered in the fall semester, which reinforces the basics and stresses jury persuasion. Students interested in competing in regional and national trial advocacy competitions must take Trial Advocacy I & II, since trial Advocacy II ends with a team selection procedure.

Course Books:
Required: Sonsteng: "The Trial Notebook" (West); Mauet: "Trial Techniques" (Aspen)

Relevancy of Course for Career Purposes:
If you wish to be a trial lawyer (or even handle a few from time to time) you need to know the basics. Even if you don't intend to be a trial lawyer, you should know the problems that a trial lawyer will face in matters that you may be handling, should the case have to go to trial.

Relevancy of Course for Bar Examination:
Evidence is tested on the bar. This course reinforces knowledge of the rules of evidence.