

**Q: When and Where is the Trial Academy?**

**A:** The Trial Academy will be held at Cornell University School of Law, Myron Taylor Hall, Ithaca, NY, from Saturday, March 28 – Wednesday April 1, 2020.

Check-in and breakfast begin on Saturday at 7:30 am, with the program beginning at 8:30 am. We finish at 4:45 pm Saturday through Tuesday. On our last day we end at 12 noon. Plan to spend time each night preparing for the next day.

**Q: How Does Trial Academy Work?**

The materials for the program will include both a criminal and civil fact pattern which will be provided to attendees before the program's start date. **If you do not receive a fact pattern via email two weeks prior to the Academy, please contact Amy Jasiewicz [ajasiewicz@nysba.org](mailto:ajasiewicz@nysba.org) immediately.**

**Attendees are strongly encouraged to prepare as much as possible using the fact pattern and materials.**

Each morning of the Trial Academy will feature a lecture on the following aspects of the trial process: Jury Selection, Opening Statements, Evidence, Foundations and Objections, Direct Examinations, Cross-Examinations, Trial Motions and Motions in Limine, and Closing Arguments.

Each afternoon the lecture group will separate into small break-out groups. Prior to the start of the program each attendee will receive materials that will include which "problem" or "witness" they are to prepare for each day's break-out group. You will work with this group and your Team Leader throughout the entire Trial Academy.

The breakout groups will allow you and your peers to put the theory of the lecture into practice with the feedback of your Team Leader and the rotating critique faculty. Your presentations will be recorded to allow for personal playback and review.

**Q: My practice focuses on mostly civil litigation. Can I request that I only present from the civil fact pattern?**

**A:** The Academy focuses on the major aspects of both a civil and criminal trial. Students must make their presentations from both the criminal and civil fact pattern. The critique faculty is a diverse mix of those with civil and criminal experience.

**Q: What are the Registration and Fees?**

**NYSBA Young Lawyer Section Members: \$850.00**

**NYSBA Members: \$900.00**

**Non-NYSBA Members: \$1,000.00**

The Trial Academy is limited to 60 participants. The registration fee includes all materials and continental breakfast each morning, NYSBA sponsored luncheons for 4 days, and the welcoming and closing cocktail receptions.

**Q: How late can I register and what about refunds?**

**A:** We strongly recommend that you register at least two weeks prior to the Academy to allow sufficient time to prepare. Registrations paid in full, dependent on space available, will be accepted until March 6, 2020. Two weeks prior to the Academy you will be provided with the fact pattern and other materials. You should begin preparing immediately and not wait until the night before. Cancellations must be received by March 6, 2020 to receive a refund of registration fee.

**Q: What CLE Credits are Available?**

**A:** Under New York's MCLE rule, this program has been approved for a total of up to 37.5 MCLE credit hours, consisting of 2.0 credit hours in ETHICS and 35.5 credit hours in PRACTICAL SKILLS. This program is transitional and therefore suitable for newly-admitted attorneys.

**Q: Are Discounts and Scholarships Available?**

**A:** Scholarships are available through several of NYSBA Sections. Check the website listing for application deadlines. Please note that scholarships only cover the registration fee, and do not cover travel, accommodations, or other expenses.

Attorneys may receive financial assistance to attend this program. Under New York State Bar Association policy, attorneys who require financial assistance may apply in writing, no later than 10 working days prior to the program, explaining the basis of his/her hardship, and, if approved, may receive a discount or scholarship, depending on the circumstances. For more details, please contact: Amy Jasiewicz, New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207, [ajasiewicz@nysba.org](mailto:ajasiewicz@nysba.org).

**Q: Are there Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities?**

**A:** Yes. NYSBA welcomes participation by individuals with disabilities. NYSBA is committed to complying with all applicable laws that prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of its goods, services, programs, activities, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. **To request auxiliary aids or services or if you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact Amy Jasiewicz at least 2 weeks in advance of the event at [ajasiewicz@nysba.org](mailto:ajasiewicz@nysba.org) or 518-487-5682.**

**Q: What Hotel Accommodations are Available?**

**A:** Please note that hotel accommodations are **not** included in the registration fee. A limited number of rooms may be available at the Statler Hotel on the Cornell University campus. To make a hotel reservation at the Statler, call the Statler Hotel Reservations Department at **1-800-541-2501** and indicate you are with the **New York State Bar Association** group. For alternative hotel accommodations please visit [www.campustravel.com/university/cornell](http://www.campustravel.com/university/cornell) for local

recommendations. Some local hotels have a daily shuttle to Cornell. The NYSBA has a limited room block and special rate only of \$189.00 with the Statler, which is available until **3/6/20**.

**Q: Where do I park?**

**Parking at the Statler**

The Statler charges its overnight guests \$12 per day to park *at the hotel*. If you are carpooling and do not have a car, please check to make sure they don't charge you to park when you check in. Even though the Statler is on campus, the hotel is a separate entity from Cornell and the Statler parking pass does not allow you to park on the campus.

To purchase a separate Cornell parking pass, go to any parking booth on campus. To avoid this expense, many people choose to walk from the hotel to Myron Taylor Hall. If the weather cooperates, it is less than 10 minutes to walk.

**Parking Off Site**

Parking permits are available for \$10 per day at any parking booth. **Please note that this does not apply to the parking lot, by permit only, behind Cornell Law School.** Some local hotels have shuttles to and from the campus. Please check with your hotel. Also, after you arrive at Trial Academy, you may find someone staying at your hotel that you could carpool with to the law school each day.

**Q: What meals are provided?**

**A:** Continental breakfast, hot and cold buffet lunch and snack breaks are provided Saturday through Tuesday. On Wednesday, breakfast will be provided. Breakfast and lunch will have vegetarian options available, no need to make a special request. You will be on your own for dinner, although there are cocktail receptions on the first and last evenings. *If you have other dietary restrictions or requests, please let us know in advance.* **Kosher meals are available to those who order in advance.** If you have requested Kosher meals in advance, please identify yourself to the wait staff to receive your meal as they are labeled individually. Kosher breakfast and lunch are ordered online when you register for the Academy. All conference attendees are on their own for dinner.

**Q: Will I be the only one with no trial experience? OR, will there be other attorneys participating who do have trial experience?**

**A:** No, you won't be the only new or experienced attorney. Every year the Trial Academy has great diversity among its participants. There is always a mix of those no trial experience, limited trial experience, and experienced attorneys.

**Q: I've registered for Trial Academy! What happens next?**

**A:** Approximately 2 weeks prior to the program, you will be sent an email from Amy Jasiewicz. It will contain a fact pattern to use to study and prepare. **Thorough review of these materials is critical to being ready for the program, and presentations.** You will be expected to present on your first day of the Academy on Jury Selection.

Approximately one week prior to the program, you will be emailed your team assignment. All participants in the Academy will gather together in the morning for a lecture, and the split into teams for the afternoons. Each afternoon of the Academy will be spent with your team of approximately 10-15 other students, practicing techniques and studying various trial aspects. Each team will have a rotating critique faculty to observe and provide feedback on student presentations.

Along with the team information, you will be sent your problem assignment, which indicates whether you will be handling the civil or criminal case, and when you will be representing the plaintiff or defense.

**Q: Are there course materials?**

**A:** Yes. All course materials are available online. There will be a printed *NotePad*<sup>®</sup> handed out at the program, however the Notepad does not contain all course materials. We are striving to conserve paper and present the materials in a convenient electronic format. Printing all of the materials would result in two very large books for you to carry throughout the week. When CLE course materials are provided electronically, the Office of Court Administration requires us to provide the NotePad so that participants have something to refer to during a program.

**Wi-Fi is available at the meeting site for you to access the materials online during the program. A high volume of users can slow access so you may want to save the course materials in advance on the laptop or tablet that you are bringing. You do not need to print the course materials.**

You must have Adobe Acrobat in order to view, save, and/or print the materials. If you do not already have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download a free copy at this link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

**Q: What should I bring?**

**A: Bring a laptop or tablet**, if you have one. A link to program materials will be provided in advance, and you may want to access these materials onsite during the lectures. We will provide notepads for note-taking. You will be provided with an outline/course book that contains some materials, but please bring your laptops, tablets, etc. as the full set of program materials will be online. WIFI access will be available at the school.

**Bring business cards.** You will have lots of opportunities to network and exchange contact information with fellow attendees, leading litigators, judges and NYSBA leadership.

**Wear walking shoes** – If you are staying at the Statler, you may need to walk from the Statler to the law school. There is also walking and stairs between meeting rooms.

**Dress to impress.** Please wear business attire each day. This will help you feel more confident, and will make your presentations feel more like an actual court appearance.

**Q: Are there workout facilities?**

**A:** No. The Cornell is on break the week of Trial Academy, which is the reason why we have it at Cornell, at this time of year.

**Q: Can I tweet about the Academy?**

**A:** Yes! You can follow or post about the program on Twitter, at: **#trial20**

**Q: How do I prepare?**

**A: Advance preparation is essential!**

Approximately two to three weeks before the program, you will be emailed a set of materials to study in advance of the Academy. This information will prepare you and help you feel more confident about your participation. We strongly encourage you NOT to wait until the evening before Trial Academy to read the materials. Any time you put into preparation using the provided materials will pay off. Please note, on the afternoon of the first day, students will be asked to make presentations on the topic of the day.

**Please note that all participants will be required to present to their small group each day of the Academy, including the first day. Day one you will be presenting a *voir dire*. Day 2: an opening statement. Day 3: a direct examination. Day 4: a cross examination. Day 5: your closing argument.** Please prepare as best you can for these in advance of the Academy, once you review the fact patterns, course materials and your team assignment which tells you which case and side you will be presenting. Some of the course materials relate to the fact patterns.

**Q: What Else Can I Do to Prepare for Trial Academy?**

**A: RELAX.** It is natural to be a bit nervous—keep in mind that you are not alone—everyone is feeling the same way you are. Remember that perfection is not expected, only improvement. This is a learning experience. Please come ready to work hard, have fun, begin new friendships, and learn a great deal.

We look forward to seeing you at the Academy!

Amy Jasiewicz

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