



**National Institute for Trial Advocacy**

**Advanced Trial Advocacy Skills Training for  
Child Welfare Attorneys  
Emory Law School  
Atlanta, GA**

**March 13-15, 2008**

**Program Schedule**

**Program Sponsored by:**

**Office of the Child Advocate  
Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children  
Emory University School of Law  
Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia**

## **Advance Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys based on NITA training methods and materials**

The following description is taken directly from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy's Trial Skills for Juvenile and Family Courts Program.

### **Method of Instruction**

The method of instruction for this program will follow the basic teaching model developed by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. The emphasis will be on "learning by doing" in a simulated courtroom setting with constructive faculty critique and videotape review of the participants' performances by experienced faculty members.

We will use the "A" and "B" adversary method of assigning most problems. Each participant in the program will be designated as either an "A" or a "B." The problems listed in this Program Schedule are designated with "A" and "B" assignments.

Except in special exercises, the A's will represent the Plaintiff and B's will represent the Defendant for the skills exercises portions of the program.

Assume that all of the problems will be conducted in a simulated courtroom setting.

### **Materials**

The materials for this program are:

(1) In re the Interest of Robert Reed problem; this will be emailed to you prior to the program.

### **Preparation**

Before arriving at the program it is essential that the participants become thoroughly familiar with the information of the assigned problem. Participants will be expected to perform on the first day of the program, and should have prepared for the first two workshops before coming to the program site.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### Thursday, March 13, 2008

- 2:00 - 3:00 Faculty Meeting
- 3:00 - 4:00 Program Registration
- 4:00 - 5:00 Welcome and Introduction to the Program
- 5:00 - 6:00 Reception – Emory  
Greetings & Comments, Justices Supreme Court of Georgia
- 6:00 - 7:00 **Case Analysis**  
This session may be the most critical one you will attend. We will divide by representational side of the case, and look at the legal theory, the factual theory, and the persuasive theory of the case. To best prepare, come to this session having thoroughly read the case file, and, in light of the law, write out the five best and the five worst facts for your side to brainstorm with your colleagues.  
**4 rooms of 14 each**  
**2 rooms of A's**  
**2 rooms of B's**
- 7:00 - 7:15 Break
- 7:15 - 8:15 **Lecture/Demo on Direct & Cross Examination**  
In light of the case analysis, we will discuss how to sharpen your skills at direct and cross to make them more incisive and, at the same time, more interesting, as you learn to tell better stories in witness examination.  
**Break out Room Assignments for next day**

**Friday, March 14, 2008**

- 8:00 - 8:30 Faculty Meeting (faculty only)
- 8:00 - 8:30 Participant - Continental Breakfast - Emory
- 8:30 - 9:00 Discussion of Today's Goals
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Workshop #1 Closing Arguments**  
You cannot begin the case unless you know where you want to end. In this session you will do a five minute closing argument based on the case analysis you did last evening, with the theme and legal theory, and anticipating that the witnesses have testified as you have anticipated. ***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 9:45 - 11:15 **Workshop #2 Direct and Cross of Fact Witnesses**  
Basic Direct and Cross-Examination of Fact Witnesses:  
Pat Williams and Lola Reed  
A's conduct a direct of Pat Williams and cross of Lola Reed  
B's conduct a direct of Lola Reed and cross of Pat Williams  
Plan to do a 7 to 8 minute examination of each witness.  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 11:15 - 11:30 Break – Refreshments provided
- 11:30 - 1:15 **Workshop #2 - Direct and Cross of Fact Witnesses (cont'd)**  
Continue the direct and cross examinations of Pat Williams and Lola Reed.  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 1:15 - 2:15 Lunch - Provided - Emory
- 2:15 - 3:15 **Lecture on Laying Foundations for Exhibits**
- 3:15 - 4:45 **Workshop #3 – Laying Foundations and Introducing Evidence**  
We will use exhibits from this case file, and other exhibits that you encounter in your practice to refine the skills discussed in the lecture. Be prepared to use the exhibits not only technically, but to use them persuasively in the examination of a witness.  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 4:45 - 5:30 **Lecture on Impeachment**
- 5:30 - 6:00 **Reflections**  
  
Dinner on your own

**Saturday, March 15, 2008**

- 8:00 - 8:30 Faculty Meeting
- 8:00 - 8:30 Participant - Continental Breakfast - Emory
- 8:30 - 9:00 Discussion of Today's Goals
- 9:00 - 10:45 **Workshop #4 Impeachment**  
Smith v. Gentry, the statement of James Taylor is a simple problem involving Impeachment by prior inconsistent statement. We will use it as a drill on impeachment.  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 10:45 - 11:00 Break – Refreshments provided
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Workshop #5 Direct and Cross-Examination of Peripheral Witnesses**  
A's conduct direct examination of Leonard Sweet and Cross-examination of Dr. J. White  
B's conduct direct examination of Dr. J. White and Cross-examination of Leonard Sweet  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 12:00 - 12:45 Lunch - provided - Emory
- 12:45 - 1:45 **Panel Discussion**  
**Examining and Interacting with the Child Client – Panel of Georgia Experts**
- 1:45 - 2:45 **Lecture on Opening Statements**
- 2:45 - 3:00 Break – Refreshments provided
- 3:00 - 5:00 **Workshop #6, One minute Grabber, Revisions, Five Minute Openings**  
You will have one minute to do a grabber, and get feedback from one faculty member. After we have heard all of the grabbers, you will spend a half an hour making any necessary revisions, and then give a five minute opening.  
***Meet in breakout rooms***
- 5:00 - 5:30 Reflections & Wrap Up