

Federal CJA Trial Skills Academy
California Western School of Law (CWSL)
April 22 - April 27, 2012
San Diego, CA
Draft Agenda 10/24/11

Sunday April 22, 2012

9:00-10:30 a.m. **Faculty Meeting**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Meeting with Actors**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Registration** (CWSL, 350 Cedar)

11:30 - 12:30 p.m. **Reception** - Lobby, 3rd Floor

12:30 - 12:45 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction to the Academy** - Moot Court Rm
- 3rd Floor*

12:45 - 1:35 p.m. **Brainstorming the Facts (Plenary - Use of Plenary Fact Problem)**

This session will present the elements of effective brainstorming and include having all participants brainstorm the facts of the plenary fact problem.

1:35 - 1:50 p.m. **Break** (All breaks set up in 3rd Floor Lobby)

1:50 - 5:15 p.m. **Brainstorming the Facts (Small Group Breakouts) -**
Breakout Assignments and Room Designations Can Be Found
on the Green Small Group Breakout Assignments Sheet

Participants brainstorm the facts of their own cases in small group breakouts.

Monday April 23, 2012

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. **Attorney-Client Relations and Interviewing Skills (Plenary)**

This session will focus on important aspects of the attorney-client relationship, as well as the elements of, and techniques for, effective interviewing that promotes obtaining information from a client and others that will best allow the creation of a persuasive theory of the case.

10:00 - 12:00 noon **Interviewing Skills (Small Group Breakouts)**

Participants practice interviewing techniques and skills and receive constructive feedback.

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Theory and Themes / Storytelling (Plenary)**

Having a theory of the case and supporting themes allows one to effectively organize a case and tell a persuasive defense story. This session will define a theory and theme and will present the elements of effective, persuasive storytelling. It will address how to develop theories and themes and weave them into a defense story.

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 - 5:45 p.m. **Development of Theory and Themes and Storytelling (Small Group Breakouts)**

Participants practice the development of theories, themes and storytelling elements.

Tuesday April 24, 2012

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Demonstrative Evidence and Aids (Plenary)

Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand words. This session will address the elements of the effective use of audio-visual aids in litigation.

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Jury Selection (Plenary)

One of the most important aspects of any trial is jury selection. This session will focus on goals in selecting a jury (including advancing the theory of the case), approaches to questioning prospective jurors, and the methods by which you can gather information from prospective jurors.

9:55 - 12:10 p.m. Jury Selection (Small Group Breakouts)

Participants will practice voir dire and receive constructive feedback.

12:10 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 - 2:40 p.m. Opening Statements (Plenary)

Opening statement is one's first opportunity to tell the jury what our case is all about. It is a critical part of the trial. This session will focus on the goals of, and preparation for, an opening statement, how jurors perceive opening statements, and the nuts & bolts of how to construct an opening statement that will advance the theory of the case and defense story.

2:45- 5:45 p.m. Preparation for and Presentation of Opening Statements (Small Group Breakouts)

Participants prepare and present opening statements and receive constructive feedback.

Wednesday April 25, 2012

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. **Cross-examination/Impeachment (Plenary/Demo)**

This session will cover goals of, and preparation for, cross-examination, effective cross-examination techniques, how to properly and effectively impeach a witness, and how to advance the theory of the case and defense story through the use of cross-examination, including demonstrations of the proper techniques.

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 -12:20 p.m. **Cross-examination and Evidence Issues (Small Group Breakouts)**

Participants practice cross-examination, impeachment of witnesses, and proper procedures for the use and admission of evidence during cross-examination, and receive constructive feedback.

12:20 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Cross-examination and Evidence Issues (Small Group Breakouts Continued)**

2:55 - 3:45 p.m. **Direct Examination /Client Prep (Plenary)**

Direct examination provides another opportunity to advance the theory of the case and defense story. This session will cover techniques to use to present a compelling direct examination.

3:45 p.m. **Adjourn for the Day**

Thursday April 26, 2012

8:45 - 11:45 a.m. **Direct Examination / Client Prep (Small Group Breakouts)**

Participants practice direct examinations and receive constructive feedback.

11:45 - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. **Closing Arguments (Plenary)**

Closing arguments are the last opportunity to communicate directly with the jury. This session will cover techniques that can be used to effectively and persuasively communicate the theory of the case and defense story.

2:15 - 2:30 p.m. **Break**

2:30 - 3:15 p.m. **Preparation for Closing Arguments (Small Group Breakouts)**

With the assistance of faculty, participants prepare closing arguments that will be performed in the following breakout.

3:15 - 4:30 p.m. **Closing Arguments (Small Group Breakouts)**

Participants perform closing arguments and receive constructive feedback.

Friday April 27, 2012

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. **Closing Arguments (Small Group Breakouts Continued)**

11:00 - 12:15 p.m. **Brunch**

12:15 - 2:50 p.m. **Closing Argument Demonstration and Jury Deliberations Observation**

Demo and Observation in Moot Court Room; Deliberations in Roy Bell Reading Room, 3rd Floor

Participants observe a closing argument demonstration and view jury deliberations via closed circuit TV.

2:50 - 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Ethics Session (Breakouts)**

4:00- 4:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. **Reception -**