Law 574: Advanced Mock Trial
Course Memorandum
Spring 2014

Professor Chris Behan
F, 1:00-2:50 Trial Advocacy Center

1. **Course Overview and Objectives.**

The purpose of the advanced mock trial course is to prepare students to excel in interschool mock trial competitions. Participation in the course is by invitation only, and invitations are extended only to those students who have been selected to represent the SIU School of Law in interschool trial competitions. Selections are based on tryouts and/or performance in the law school’s Basic Trial Advocacy Course.

SIU School of Law fields two trial teams each year: the Mock Trial Team, and the BLSA Mock Trial Team. Participants in each team have been invited to represent the SIU School of Law by the Director of Trial Advocacy Programs at the School of Law. Selected students may compete on both the Mock Trial Team and the BLSA Mock Trial Team, at the discretion of the instructor.

The course objectives include the following:

1. Enhance case analysis skills and the ability to both strategically and tactically plan for trial.

2. Identify commonly experienced problems in mock trial competitions and develop effective procedures to avoid or overcome them.

3. Improve courtroom evidence skills, including objections, responses, evidentiary foundations, and use of exhibits.

4. Develop as adult learners by researching trial advocacy issues, creating written materials for use as resources by others, and teaching others new skills.

2. **Class Meetings and Attendance Policy.**

During the spring semester, we will compete in a total of four competitions. Course members are expected to prepare for their own competitions and assist other teams to prepare for competitions. Attendance at assigned practices is mandatory as directed by Professor Behan, your team coach, and the Chief Judge and Associate Judge of the Mock Trial Board. Missing practices without permission or notification will result in removal from your competition team and an unsatisfactory grade in the course.

3. **Texts**

There are no required texts for the course. In preparing assignments, class members will use the trial advocacy resource manuals that are available in the Trial Advocacy Center. Where possible, we will use case files from our competitions to form the basis of advocacy exercises.

The Advocacy Teaching Blog, the Stetson Advocacy Resource Center, the Golden Gate University Litigation Center website, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Studio 71 Online Resource Center and other free electronic resources are also available for use in preparing assignments. Students should plan on using all these available resources in the course.
4. **Contact Information.**

   a. **General.** My office is Room 244. Telephone number is 453-8722. E-mail address is cbehan@siu.edu. My cell number is 618-503-0147. I prefer text messages to calls. If you text, identify yourself in the text.

   b. **Office Hours.** I have an open-door policy and have found this to be superior to set office hours. Nonetheless, I will have formal office hours Monday from 2:30-4:30. During other times, if my office door is open, please feel free to stop in and talk to me. If I’m with another student, let me know you are waiting. If the door is shut, knock! If I am busy, I will reschedule a later meeting with you. You can also schedule meetings with me via e-mail.

5. **Policy on Recording Class.**

   We will record individual performances in class for use in video review assignments. Otherwise, the class will not be recorded by the IT Department.

6. **Emergency Procedures.**

   Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

   Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The BERT will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

7. **Students with Disabilities**

   The law school’s policies and procedures regarding students with disabilities may be found online at http://www.law.siu.edu/. Students with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Registrar’s office for more information.

8. **Assessment**

   The class is graded S/U. All assignments will be assessed accordingly. Each student will receive written feedback on written assignments, as well as verbal and video feedback (Acclaim website) on in-class advocacy performances.