

# LL.M. IN TRIAL ADVOCACY

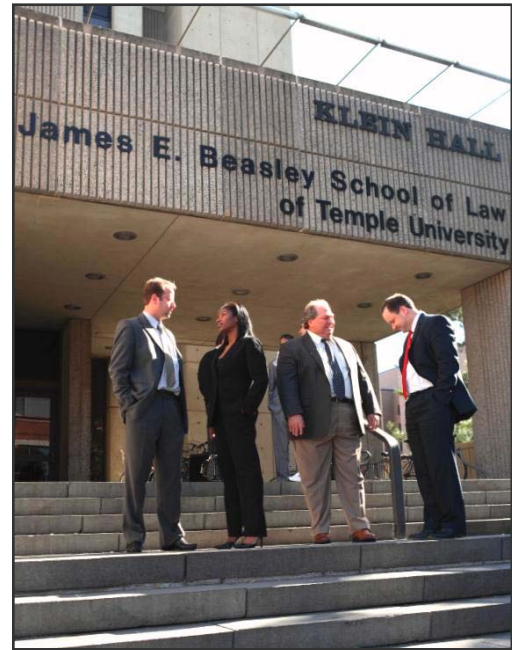


*At Temple LL.M. in Trial Advocacy, developing trial lawyers' is not just a sideline. It's a discipline.* Constructed on the University model, the LL.M. program provides training in both litigation strategy and trial advocacy which features the “learn by doing” approach to instruction. The program is a one-year, 24-credit degree program designed for the practicing attorney and, as such, is scheduled primarily in the evenings and on weekends. In addition, our distance-learning program allows students from across the country to telecommute to evening lectures via live, online broadcasts. All students also attend videotaped performance-weekends on campus. Students not only graduate with a LL.M. degree from Temple in Trial Advocacy, but simultaneously earn 24 substantive CLE credits. The LL.M. in Trial Advocacy is the only program of its kind in the country – it is an ideal fit for those who aspire to perfect both litigation tactics and courtroom performance.

## **Boot Camp**

The LL.M. in Trial Advocacy kicks-off with an intensive two-week “Boot Camp.” As the program title suggests, we believe a critical front-end indoctrination into courtroom skills allows students to successfully navigate late curriculum rigors. Boot Camp exposes students to the program’s core philosophy of teaching—translating theory to courtroom performance.

Case theory lies at the heart of trial advocacy, and the initial Boot Camp program offers students a series of seminars and workshops designed to deepen theoretical knowledge and refine its conversion to improved trial skills. By the end of their Boot Camp experience students will have learned to: prepare a witness, present convincing direct examinations, and effectively cross-examine the opposition; perform an intense review of evidence law and refine their ability to raise and overcome objections; and select the strongest facts from their case and persuasively communicate them to the jury.



## **Experts Program**

During this component, The Honorable Mark I. Bernstein (*author*, PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF EVIDENCE WITH COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS (Gann Law Books 2009)) and Larry Bendesky, of Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, teach students how to effectively direct and cross-examine experts. The program also highlights evidence law, the gateway to all expert testimony. Professor Edward D. Ohlbaum, a leading authority in the field, trains students to creatively engage the federal rules of evidence, as well as to successfully argue testimony admittance and exclusion.



Students will learn by eliciting testimony from practicing physicians, design engineers, and economists who regularly serve as witnesses in the courtroom. Those interested in criminal law are also offered testimonial access to law enforcement and forensic experts. Post performance, students have the rare opportunity to obtain individual feedback from the experts.

## Motions and Appellate Practice

Students learn persuasive pre-trial motions by arguing before regional judges and trial lawyers. In this court room setting, LL.M. lawyers are paired against adversaries and present a variety of motions on topics including Discovery, Privilege Logs, Work Product, Lack of Jurisdiction, Summary Judgment, and Preliminary Injunction. Judge instructors render rulings and critique students on their pre-trial performance. To address the significant interplay between litigation and appellate practice, students learn to identify potential appellate issues at the trial stage, and to properly preserve those issues through oral and written motions. During this component, experienced appellate practitioners sit as judge instructors and critique students' oral arguments.



## Deposition Program



Deposition remains one of the most underdeveloped disciplines for trial attorneys. Temple's LL.M. program teaches students to maximize fact-finding efforts, allowing them to build strong, well-tailored cases. The program offers an integrated approach to deposition that combines interactive lectures with hands-on practice. Howard Bruce Klein, a national authority (*author*, THE DEPOSITION GUIDEBOOK (ALI-ABA 2007)), instructs students in all aspects of deposition practice. Students gain an appreciation for the critical role of deposition preparation and performance in litigation via taking and defending both expert and lay depositions.

## Technology in the Courtroom

Technology has fast become an integral component to jury persuasion. Although most trial lawyers accept technology on some level, many remain either unaware of its dynamic potential or avoid its inclusion in their practice. Robert Mongeluzzi and Donna Lee Jones (Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky) showcase the power of finely-tuned visual effects in the form of actual demonstrative evidence. By way of examples, students learn to use technology to capture jury attention and highlight recurring case themes.

Students learn to creatively interact with Trial Director, a leading software program for document organization, and photo, video, and testimony presentation. The workshops



offer hands-on training for all software components. From case organization through trial presentation, Temple LL.M. provides access to various experts: Temple Law’s IT department; Trial Director specialist Thomas G. Oakes; and DOAR consultants. Implementing systematic case organization, students create technology-based exhibits for evidence presentation.

## **Jury Selection**



Temple assembles jury experts, law professors, judges, and jurors to fully immerse students in the selection process. With hands-on interaction, students experience how they evaluate—and are evaluated by—potential jurors. Faculty demonstrations and performance workshops teach LL.M. students how to create comfortable environments and allow meaningful juror disclosure. Students are coached on asking questions that reveal the juror’s worldview and how he or she will react to case evidence.

In this course, students practice simulated *voir dire* of potential jurors from the region and practice cause challenges and peremptory strikes. LL.M. lawyers also test case theories before a focus group, view live jury deliberations, and debrief juror pools via closed circuit video technology

## **Litigation Strategy**

With twelve distinct topics ranging from case theory to technology, the program directly integrates litigation theory with trial practice. Nationally recognized trial attorneys share their most valued secrets and strategies through lecture, demonstration, and reenactment of their landmark cases.

LL.M. students are coached on how to incorporate newly acquired litigation strategies during their trial performances. The cornerstone of the LL.M. in Trial Advocacy is that students “learn by doing”, in other words, by practicing proven techniques during trial presentations before juries.



## **Jury Trials**

Temple's many LL.M. components culminate in a series of jury trials. Each student will try five cases throughout the program; for each trial, LL.M. lawyers will be assigned a trial partner and adversaries based on experience, interest and court room style. Students will apply knowledge of motions, depositions, expert testimony, and previous curricula to present compelling arguments to live judges and jurors. Experienced litigators and respected judges preside over the trials and provide individual feedback with each performance.



Additional critiques are provided by peer-jurors, and the students themselves; the students must present self-critiques of the recorded trial videos. Temple LL.M. also invites Scot Gratson of the University's School of Communication and Theater for a special session to observe and analyze each student's nonverbal communication during jury trials. The LL.M. program provides live-judges, jurors, witnesses, experts, and technical support for every jury trial.

**Additional Information:**



**Barbara L. Ashcroft**  
**Program Director**

Thanks for your interest in the LL.M. in Trial Advocacy program at Temple University, Beasley School of Law. Our website is currently under construction but will be available shortly to provide full details regarding the program's courses and instructors. Currently, for more information on the LL.M. in Trial Advocacy program, or to receive an email notification for when the website is active, please contact our office by phone at 215-204-5314, or via email at [barbara.ashcroft@temple.edu](mailto:barbara.ashcroft@temple.edu).