

TRIAL AND ADVOCACY TEAM COMPETITION TRYOUTS INFORMATION

Tryout Schedule

Tryouts for the 2019-20 Trial Team at Washington University School of Law will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 13th and 14th, and May 4th and 5th. Students wishing to try out will only need to attend one of these days. Copies of the tryout problem and sign-up sheets are now available in Room 550-B.

About the Trial and Advocacy Team

The size of the Trial Team varies from year to year based on the quantity and quality of students who apply. The selected students will compete in up to six competitions during the year. During the Fall semester, eight students will compete in the ABA Labor & Employment Competition, and four students will compete in the Missouri Attorney General's Cup Trial Advocacy Competition. We also hope to send teams to a number of invitational tournaments but cannot promise those opportunities until formal invitations are given. Normally during the Spring semester, up to four students will compete in the regional National Trial Competition (NTC), and up to eight students will compete in the regional AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The Trial Team winners of the regional NTC will advance to the Championship Rounds of the NTC. The Trial Team winners of the regional AAJ Competition will advance to the AAJ National Competition. The Trial Team is coached by Judge David C. Mason, former National Trial Team winner, and Attorney Mark Rudder. In addition, several prominent trial lawyers and judges in the St. Louis Metropolitan area provide assistance throughout the year.

Expectations for Students on the Trial and Advocacy Team

Students participating on the Trial Team may receive up to two credits each year, with credits posted at the either one per semester or both in the Spring. The Trial Team involves intense training in trial advocacy and evidence law. There is also substantive work in all aspects of torts and criminal law rotating year to year. Students are expected to do substantive legal research as part of their case preparation. During the year, the Trial Team practices at least three times per week until competitions are concluded. Practices are normally held on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesday nights. As competitions approach, there may be as many as four or five practices per week. During the Fall semester ,competitions end by mid to late November. During the Spring semester, the regional competitions end by late February to early March, and the National competitions end by late March to early April. Thus, the time commitment for members of the Trial Team (even for those students advancing to the National level) ends more than a month before the start of exams.