

# The State Bar of Nevada's ANNUAL TRIAL ACADEMY IS COMING IN APRIL

BY JACKSON WONG, ESQ., TRIAL ACADEMY CO-CHAIR

The Trial Academy, an interactive training sponsored by the State Bar of Nevada's Young Lawyers Section, will be more convenient and accessible this year for Nevada lawyers, as it will be held April 21-22, in Las Vegas. The program offers participants a unique and interactive learning opportunity to develop their trial skills. They will receive small group instruction from trial experts and a simulated trial experience at the Regional Justice Center.

The fee for the program will be \$490 and will include an entire year's worth of general CLE credits and meals for both days, as well as networking opportunities with highly skilled attorneys and esteemed judges. If your firm is considering sponsoring multiple attendees, please contact one of the Trial Academy's co-chairs, as you may qualify for sponsorship recognition. (Co-chairs are Shannon Wise and Jackson Wong.) The Trial Academy will have a very limited number of spots. Interested participants can register and reserve their spot at [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org).

## What will the Trial Academy cover?

The Trial Academy encompasses a multitude of topics, including every part of a trial. Prior to the start of the academy, participants will be provided a full National Institute for Trial Advocacy case file and assigned a side to prepare. Every year, the Trial Academy alternates between civil and criminal case files, and this year's case file will be a criminal one. On the first day of the program,

participants will receive lectures from prominent Nevada trial attorneys designed to develop their trial skills, including classes on voir dire, themes and theories, opening statements, direct and cross examination, and closing statements. Following the lectures, participants will work on their opening statements, direct and cross-examination questions, and closing arguments, in preparation for day two.

On the second day, participants will practice the skills and techniques taught on day one in the form of live exercises. During the live exercises, they will receive feedback from a sitting district court judge and/or trial lawyer, which will further help refine the students' trial skills. Once the live exercise portion of the Trial Academy concludes, participants will have the opportunity to unwind and network with fellow participants, attorneys, and judges, at a reception.

## Who will be the instructors?

Past instructors have included esteemed state and federal judges, and prominent trial attorneys. This year's program will again feature a similar list of speakers.

## Who should attend the Trial Academy?

Trial attorneys, or attorneys who are interested in becoming a trial attorney, should consider attending. The lectures will cover the basics as well as advanced trial techniques. Although the Trial

Academy is using a criminal case file this year, the trial skills and techniques taught in the Trial Academy are applicable to all trials, regardless of whether it is a civil or a criminal case or whether it is in state or federal court. Thus, attorneys, regardless of their level of experience or practice area, who wish to further develop and refine their trial skills should seriously consider attending.

## How many CLE credits will I earn?

Trial Academy participants will be eligible for at least 13 general CLE credits. Those who wish to become a certified personal injury specialist may use the Trial Academy in place of one jury or non-jury trial for purposes of qualifying for that certification.

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