



“The Trial Academy is a great way to learn and to sharpen young lawyers’ trial skills.”

Young Lawyers

BY PAOLA ARMENI, Young Lawyers Chair

2ND ANNUAL TRIAL ACADEMY

During the period of June 23 through June 25, an elite faculty consisting of **Justice James Hardesty, Justice Nancy Saitta, Honorable Elissa Cadish, Honorable David Hagan, Dominic Gentile, Laura FitzSimmons, Rene Valladares, Erika Pike Turner, Scott Coffee and Mark Gunderson** joined a zealous group of participants in Kaua’i, Hawaii to mark the Young Lawyers 2nd Trial Academy. The Trial Academy was founded only last year and is now presented annually in conjunction with the State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting.

This year the program focused its advocacy skills on the National Institute For Trial Advocacy (NITA) case file of *State of Nita v. John Burns*. Since it was a criminal case, participants were divided into prosecutors and defense attorneys. Over the three day period, the trial academy covered a vast assortment of trial skills including themes and theories, opening statements, direct and cross examination, jury instructions and closing arguments. The faculty provided substantive lectures and demonstrations of the various trial skills. The participants then divided into small groups to practice their trial skills in hands-

on, simulated trial settings with constructive faculty critique.

The Trial Academy is a great way to learn and to sharpen young lawyers’ trial skills. It allows one-on-one interaction with some of the most elite trial lawyers in the state of Nevada, as well as many esteemed members of the judiciary. It is a program that should not be missed.

If you missed out on this year’s Trial Academy, save the date for the 3rd Annual Trial Academy which will take place in conjunction with the annual state bar meeting in San Diego, June 28 – June 30, 2012. Hope to see you there!

A very special thank you to our esteemed faculty who took the time out of their busy schedules and, more importantly, from their Hawaiian vacations to help lead the trial academy and impart their knowledge and expertise to our participants.

Also, a big thank you to the YLS Trial Academy Committee, Ryan Works, Kendelea Leascher Works and Jeremy Reichenberg, whose relentless hard work made the 2nd Annual Trial Academy a success. ■