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Young Lawyers

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IF YOU WANT TO TRY CASES IN NEVADA, YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE TRIAL ACADEMY

Why? Because the Trial Academy provides an unmatched hands-on approach to learning about the art of trial practice from some of the finest justices, judges and trial attorneys from throughout Nevada. At the upcoming 2014 State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting in Newport Beach, California, the Young Lawyers Section will host its Fifth Annual Trial Academy from July 10 to July 12.

Over the course of the three-day interactive program, participants will receive group session instruction on themes and theories, voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross-examination, jury instructions and closing arguments. After each general instruction session, participants will be divided into smaller break-out groups to present mock-voir dire, openings, witness examinations and closing arguments. Throughout each mock presentation, instructors will provide participants with individual mentoring and feedback.

Each year, elite practitioners and many of the finest members of the judiciary from around the state volunteer to share their time and wisdom with lawyers (both young and not-so-young) interested in honing their trial skills. Past participants attest that this is a rare opportunity to get feedback, in a very small and intimate setting, directly from the same judges that may someday decide their cases (the mock presentations are based on hypotheticals, which are distributed in advance of the academy, not on real cases). Participants will receive valuable practice tips from trial attorneys that are among the best of the best.

In addition to scholarship and meeting judges and experienced litigators, participants get to network within a field of their peers, all of whom share a common goal and face similar challenges in their practices. For those of you who have not yet attended an annual meeting, the Trial Academy is an excellent way to interact with your peers, create business development connections and even find some downtime to relax in a beautiful setting.

The State Bar of Nevada offers a reduced registration fee for Trial Academy participants, and sponsorship opportunities that include program recognition and participant registrations. However, we kindly ask those signing up for the Trial Academy to plan on participating for all three days. Our small break-out groups are pre-determined based on pre-registration numbers. Instructors and case assignments (plaintiff v. defendant/state v. defense) are created using those same numbers. As a result, when participants skip out on break-out sessions, other attendees are inconvenienced. The Trial Academy is designed to guide participants through each phase of trial, so participants are best served by attending each session.

For additional information regarding program specifics, registration or sponsorship opportunities, please feel free to contact me at kworks@egletwall.com, or Trial Academy chairpersons Maggie Lambrose (mlambrose@lambrosebrown.com) or Karl Riley (kriley@swlaw.com). We are looking forward to another successful Trial Academy and thank our instructors in advance for their time and commitment along with the State Bar of Nevada for its immeasurable support. ■