

# YOUNG LAWYERS

BY ERIN GETTEL, ESQ. AND JOSEPH MESERVY, ESQ.



## TRIAL ACADEMY: Q&A

The Trial Academy is a hands-on trial training presented by the Young Lawyer's Section in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting. Participants also attend several plenary sessions with general meeting attendees and may attend all social receptions and events at the general meeting. This year, the Annual Meeting and Trial Academy will be held June 27 to 29 in Vail, Colorado, with a welcome reception and Trial Academy kickoff on the evening of Wednesday, June 26.

You can register at [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org) > Annual Meeting > Register. The cost is \$490 and includes all meals and events at the Annual Meeting unless indicated otherwise. The bar has also reserved a room block at a discounted rate of \$209 per night. If your firm is considering sponsoring multiple attendees, please contact us, because you may qualify for sponsorship recognition.

### What topics does the Trial Academy Cover?

In preparation for the course, we provide a full NITA case file and assign each participant a side to prepare. Each day consists of one or more lectures that the whole group will attend, followed by small-group sessions, during which participants will practice the skills taught in lecture and receive individualized feedback from instructors. On the first day of the program, participants will attend lectures on pre-trial motions, themes and theories, and opening statements.

The day will conclude with small-group sessions, during which participants give a prepared opening statement. Day two will feature lectures on trial evidence and direct- and cross-examination. In small groups, participants will select one witness from the case file to direct and one to cross (witnesses will be played by others in the group). The program will conclude on day three with a lecture on closing arguments, after which students will make closing arguments in their small groups.

### Who are the instructors?

Past instructors have included state and federal judges and practitioners. This year's program will again feature several judges, including Nevada Supreme Court Justice Elissa Cadish and U.S. District Judges Richard Boulware, Jennifer Dorsey and Andrew Gordon. The instructors will rotate through the small groups, so you will have the opportunity to work with a variety of instructors one-on-one throughout the program.

### Is the program geared toward any particular area of law?

We alternate between civil and criminal case files. This year, we will be using a criminal case file: *United States v. Clark*, a federal bank robbery case. The skills taught in lecture can be applied to both civil and criminal cases, and in both state and federal court, so you shouldn't be discouraged from attending if you practice in other areas.

### Do I need to be a young or new lawyer to attend the Trial Academy?

No! All experience levels are encouraged to attend. The lectures will cover the basics as well as more advanced trial-practice tips. We also strive to group people with similar levels of experience together for the small-group sessions so that instructors can tailor their feedback to your experience level.

### How much CLE credit will I earn?

Trial Academy participants are typically eligible to receive 20 CLE credits. Additionally, those seeking to become a certified personal injury specialist may use trial academy in place of one jury or non-jury trial for purposes of qualifying for that certification.

The Trial Academy is co-chaired by Erin Gettel and Joseph Meservy.

**ERIN GETTEL** is a Boyd Law graduate and serves as an assistant federal public defender in the trial unit of the Las Vegas office. Gettel is a 2016 Trial Academy graduate. You can reach her at [Erin\\_Gettel@fd.org](mailto:Erin_Gettel@fd.org).

**JOSEPH MESERVY** is a civil litigator at Barron & Pruitt, LLP. His practice focuses on insurance matters on both the trial and appellate level. You can reach him at [jmeservy@lvnlaw.com](mailto:jmeservy@lvnlaw.com).