

Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy

Introduction

The Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy is a journal dedicated to publishing articles that balance the practical and academic aspects of trial practice. There are currently only two other law school-sponsored journals focusing on trial advocacy in the United States, and no school-sponsored journals in the Midwest. The goal of the journal is to bridge the gap between purely academic journals and purely practical journals based primarily on anecdotes and opinion. The Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy would include empirically based research articles on issues pertaining to matters important to trial advocates, as well as pieces providing informative suggestions, opinions, and insights from trial lawyers, judges, academics, and other experts from across the nation. Additionally, the Journal will welcome submissions from students in a variety of fields including law, criminal justice, sociology, psychology and others that may provide the trial lawyer with useful insights.

The Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy was started by five students in the Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute and will be housed within and supported by students in the Institute at Michigan State University College of Law.

Audience

The goal is to provide articles for trial lawyers, professors, and students to inform the trial attorney, educate the trial practice student, and provide a venue for discussion and the sharing of ideas between academics and practicing attorneys in an effort to bridge the gap between practioners and academics.

Membership

The editorial board of the Journal will be made up of third-year law students in the Trial Practice Institute and will consist of an Editor-In-Chief, an Executive Editor, a Managing Editor, an Articles Editor, and a Business Editor. Additionally, second-year law students in the Trial Practice Institute will be provided the opportunity to serve, on a volunteer basis, as Associate Editors, assisting with basic editing and cite checking.

Content

The Journal will consist of articles submitted by local and national trial attorneys, state and federal judges, academics in a variety of fields, professionals in technical fields, jury consultants, former jurors in prominent cases, and students.

The Journal will publish informative and educational articles that will aid all professionals and students with an interest in trial practice and advocacy. By way of example, the journal will include articles describing useful techniques for examining

witnesses, empirical research on juror perception and information retention, legal issues pertaining the rules of evidence and procedure, and statistical information relating to jury verdicts and awards.

Long-Term Vision

The Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy will aim to publish two to three issues of the Journal per academic year. Additionally, the Journal hopes to host symposia on important and innovative issues in trial practice and advocacy as Journal recognition increases with time.

Inaugural Issue

The inaugural issue will focus on electronic evidence and discovery pertaining to the recently enacted Federal Rules of Evidence and Discovery. The journal hopes to include articles from judges with experience trying cases using electronic evidence, jurors who heard cases in which electronic evidence was presented, attorneys with experience trying cases using electronic evidence and discovery, and experts in the field of computers and electronics who develop and advise on the use of electronic evidence in the courtroom.

The inaugural issue will be a crucial step toward the process of establishing a well-recognized and respected journal. Central to this step will be acquiring the generous financial support of sponsors to raise sufficient funds to sustain the Journal through its first year. All sponsors will be recognized for their contributions in the inaugural issue.

The Board has set a goal of Spring 2008 for publication of the inaugural issue.

Disclaimer: The Journal of Trial Practice and Advocacy is not affiliated with Michigan State University College of Law.