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**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW at ANDOVER**

**SYLLABUS FOR TRIAL TECHNIQUES – SPRING 2020**

**Professor Anthony A. Copani**

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**Text**: **COURSE MATERIALS (REQUIRED):**

1. FUNDAMENTALS OF TRIAL TECHNIQUES

Thomas A. Mauet, Little, Brown and Company (most current edition (10th) is not required)

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

1. Brodin Avery, Handbook of Massachusetts Evidence (Aspen)

2. American Jurisprudence, Proof of Facts

3. Evidentiary Foundations - Imwinkelried

4. Massachusetts Guide to Evidence

**Class Times:** Tuesday/Thursday Day: 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm

7:30 pm – 8:50 pm

**Purpose** Thepurpose of this course is to have students develop basic trial

**And Course** skills and to apply the rules of evidence in a courtroom setting

**Description**: promoting a better understanding of evidence, courtroom advocacy and trial skills.

**SCHEDULE**

Class One Introduction/Overview

Client Interview - Lecture

Class Two Techniques of Client Interview/ Ethical Issues

Class Three Opening Statements - Lecture

Class Four Opening Statements - Student Participation

Class Five Direct Examination and Objections – Lecture

Class Six Direct Examination and Objections - Student Participation

Class Seven Direct Examination and Objections - Continued

Class Eight Cross-Examination and Objections - Lecture

Class Nine Cross-Examination and Objections - Student Participation

Class Ten Cross-Examination and Objection - Continued

Class Eleven Exhibits and Demonstrative Evidence - Lecture

Class Twelve Exhibits and Demonstrative Evidence - Student

Participation

Class Thirteen Exhibits and Demonstrative Evidence - Continued

Class Fourteen Expert Witnesses - Lecture

Class Fifteen Expert Witnesses - Direct Examination - Student

Participation

Class Sixteen Expert Witnesses - Cross Examination - Student Participation

Class Seventeen Expert Witness - Continued

Class Eighteen Closing Argument - Lecture

Class Nineteen Closing Argument - Student Participation

Class Twenty Closing Argument - Continued

Class Twenty-One Review of Trial Techniques

Class Twenty-Two Student Trials through Class Thirty

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will be given assignments and problems on a weekly basis depending on the progress made in class as determined by the number of students participating.

Students shall be graded on their performance in class of the scheduled assignments. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. A student who has more than three unexcused absences shall not be allowed to participate in the final trial and shall receive a failing grade. Each student shall be required to provide two to three individuals to serve as jurors and a witness for the trial at the end of the semester. By enrolling in class, students agree to the above terms and conditions of the course. The final grade shall be determined largely by the student's performance at a mock trial before a jury conducted at the end of the semester. Students are also required to participate as a clerk in a second trial.