

## **WNE SCHOOL OF LAW MOCK TRIAL TEAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Western New England School of Law is calling for applications to try out for the Mock Trial Team (MTT)

The MTT offers a dynamic and exciting opportunity for students to learn trial advocacy skills in preparation for both a regional competition and, possibly, the national competition hosted by the American Association of Justice (“AAJ”).

The course offers extensive (and intensive) training in how to prepare an entire case for trial, and students will bring those skills to bear against competing law schools in our region. Students will learn the art of opening statements and closing arguments, how to conduct direct and cross examinations, how to raise evidentiary objections and think strategically about a case. This is a learn-by-doing endeavor where students will be on their feet immediately in an environment where we will promote team work, cooperation, encouragement, and fortitude. It’s also a lot of fun.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Tracy Magdalene - tmagdale@wne.edu or tracymagdalene@comcast.net

**Fall Semester:** The seminar will be held on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:55.

All students will receive a practice case file and will be grouped with a partner; two students will represent the plaintiff and two students will represent the defendant. All skills training will be centered upon the practice case file. The semester will culminate with a mock trial on the last two days of the semester. Students will receive two credits for the semester.

**Spring Semester:** The seminar will be held on Wednesdays from 4:05-5:55.

The competition case file drops near the end of January. During seminar, students will practice and perfect their written and oral skills learned in the fall by preparing and applying their skills to the competition case. The AAJ regional competition takes place in early to mid-March. Therefore, practice sessions will take place during the evenings (and possibly during the weekend) and will begin four weeks prior to the regional competition. Practices are crucial. If the team does well in the regional competition, it will progress to the national competition which is held in early April. Students will receive three credits for the semester.

Because the competition in the spring requires skilled advocacy, it is expected that students will enroll for the academic year.

The materials for the MTT tryouts is located on TWEN on the AAJ Mock Trial Team course page. These materials include the following:

- \* Application Form: Due in the TWEN Drop Box by August 14th
- \* A request for your resume: Due in the TWEN Drop Box by August 14th
- \* Instructions for Tryouts: This includes information on the process, case materials, notes on Zoom, and important dates. Available on TWEN
- \* Deposition of Chris Jensen with Exhibits. Available on TWEN.

**NOTE: Prior experience with trial advocacy is not required! If you do not have trial advocacy experience, do not let that deter you from trying out for the team. The MTT provides the opportunity to learn those skills. A 3L in last year’s MTT was excited about having learned how to litigate – for the first time. It was an exciting moment to witness.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Magdalene if you have any questions regarding the application process .

