



Trial Academy

Developing our top-flight talent into first-chair trial lawyers



Tucker
Ellis | LLP



"My goal in developing the Tucker Ellis Trial Academy was to create a group of A+ trial lawyers with the skills to try any case with confidence. Some of the most fun I have had over the last 40 years of practice has been in the courtroom, and I want to pass along that experience to others."

Rita Maimbourg

Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

OVERVIEW

With fewer trials happening in the world of civil litigation, the next generation of first-chair trial lawyers faces limited opportunities for real-world practice. That's why we offer trial skills training in house—to ensure our trial teams are well prepared to serve our clients effectively for years to come.

The Tucker Ellis Trial Academy develops our top mid-level trial attorneys' courtroom skills through a combination of practical seminars and stand-up exercises before a sitting judge and jury. Led by our nationally renowned trial partners, participants receive personalized guidance to hone their strengths, identify their weaknesses, and enhance their capabilities as trial lawyers overall.





TRIAL ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Trial Academy packed years of inspiration and wisdom into a few days and gave me an opportunity to absorb lessons learned from some of the firm's most experienced trial lawyers. By the end of the program, I could not wait to try a case and continue developing my own style.

—Nate Nasrallah



Our clients expect us to have our trial tools sharpened and ready when justice requires. Trial Academy does just that. The program allows participants to learn from some of the country's best trial lawyers—with home court advantage. I look forward to taking my trial advocacy skills to the next level.

—Andrea Lowe

I came to Tucker Ellis because the firm promised to train me to be a trial lawyer, not just a litigator. Tucker Ellis has delivered on that promise time and again, including through my participation in the Trial Academy. It feels great to be part of an organization that is actually what it says it is and does what it says it will do.

—Giuseppe Pappalardo



Trial Academy has enhanced every part of my practice here at Tucker Ellis. By participating in the exercise, I've burnished important substantive skills and deepened my relationships with the experienced trial attorneys serving as our teachers, and with my teammates and colleagues, who will carry Tucker Ellis's proud tradition of trial excellence into the future.

—Melissa Kelly



TRIAL SKILLS DEEP DIVE

The Trial Academy kicks off with a two-day practical seminar led by the best, brightest, and most experienced litigators in our Trial Department. Each lecture focuses on a different phase of a trial and the skills necessary to execute it, which our presenters demonstrate based on real cases they've litigated. At the seminar's end, participants receive a hypothetical case and divide into teams of two, representing either Plaintiff or Defendant. Then, the teams dive into trial prep.

Trial skills seminar checklist:

- ✓ Planning to win/theory of the case
- ✓ *Voir dire*
- ✓ Opening statement
- ✓ Direct examination
- ✓ Cross examination
- ✓ Closing argument



"Effective trial lawyers are becoming rare because opportunities to try cases are dwindling. That makes Trial Academy an invaluable resource. You learn the skills and tricks necessary to succeed before judge and jury from many of the best. And the war stories are fascinating."

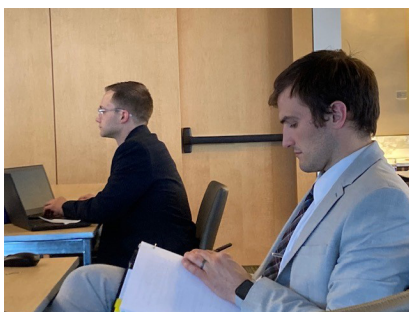
Jay Campbell

Veteran IP trial lawyer with nearly 25 years of experience



PREPARING FOR TRIAL

Over the subsequent four to six weeks, each trial team prepares their case, which focuses on a business litigation, personal injury, product liability, or medical malpractice fact pattern. Each team has the option to select a junior lawyer to assist. With support from our senior trial partners, both teams establish theories of the case and strategies to win it.



“Trials put the importance of successful pre-trial litigation practice into perspective. Nothing highlights the importance of what you do throughout a case more than seeing it unfold in a trial.”

John McCaffrey

*Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers,
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers,
and Band 1 Chambers-ranked trial attorney*



THE TRIAL

The program culminates in a three-day mock trial, where teams engage in every phase of the trial process—from *voir dire* to verdict. A veteran trial attorney or actual judge presides over the proceedings, and attorneys, staff, and individuals from outside the firm serve as witnesses, jurors, and other roles necessary to achieve a truly immersive courtroom experience.

Following the trial, senior partners assess each participant's courtroom skills and review video recordings of the trial to identify areas for improvement.

In our Trial Academy courtroom, teams:

- select their jury
- argue motions in limine
- give opening statements
- direct- and cross-examine witnesses
- make closing arguments



“By providing deep practical experience to our next generation of trial lawyers, the Trial Academy strengthens the foundation of our practice long term. When it comes to trial-skills training, the program is second to none.”

Laura Hong

*Band 1 Chambers-ranked trial attorney
with 35 years of experience*



OUR GOAL

The Tucker Ellis Trial Academy harnesses the commitment and skills of our seasoned trial partners to prepare our rising stars for the first chair. Because our partners work closely with junior attorneys throughout their careers, they share a collegiality that allows each participant to receive tailored support. This familiarity sets the Trial Academy apart from the one-size-fits-all approach common of outside trial-skills training programs, maximizing returns for our attorneys, our clients, and our future.



“The Trial Academy underscores our firm’s commitment to ensuring for ourselves and our clients that Tucker Ellis will have trial-ready teams to battle in the courtroom for decades to come.”

Sherry Knutson

*Band 4 Chambers-ranked trial attorney
with 25+ years of experience*



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