

VBA Trial Academy 2023
July 28, 2023
Vermont Law and Graduate School
8:30am – 4:30pm
South Royalton, VT

Credits: 7.0 General MCLE (meets Rules 12(a)(1) and 15(c) requirements)

Participants will be expected to prepare 7-minute presentations of four trial segments for either a criminal, civil or family case, in advance of the academy. Please indicate your preference (criminal, civil, or family) when you register. The relevant case materials are posted for download on the CLE Calendar of the VBA website*.

Trial segments will include: (1) an opening statement; (2) a direct examination of a witness; (3) a cross examination of a witness; and (4) a closing argument.

The number of segments that you'll present during the academy will depend on the number of participants who register. Each segment that you present will be critiqued by the presiding judge in your courtroom and by an experienced trial practitioner.

Members of the VBA Young Lawyers Division will serve as your witness(es), and will testify based on the case materials fact patterns.

The presiding judges will be U.S. District Court Judge Christina Reiss, and Vermont Superior Court Judges Dickson Corbett, Samuel Hoar, Howard Kalfus, and Lisa Warren.

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration/ Coffee and Refreshments

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Overview: Opening Statements

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Opening Statements

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Overview: Direct Examinations

11:00 - 12:15 Direct Examinations

12:15 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch

12:45 – 1:15 p.m. Overview: Cross Examinations

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Cross Examinations

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Overview: Closing Arguments

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Closing Arguments

* Participants may elect to observe only. Please choose "Observe Only" on the registration form. The registration cost is the same. While observers are not expected to present trial segments, they should review materials for their chosen section and plan to participate in discussions.