

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

LEGL 2823 Trial Practice

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: LEGL 2133 Torts and LEGL 1203 Legal Research and Writing II or consent of the program director.

Prerequisite or corequisite: LEGL 2322 Civil Procedure or consent of the program director.

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Detailed study of pre-trial, trial and post-trial procedures. Special emphasis placed on the actual drafting of various legal documents, motion practice, appellate documents and the research and writing of briefs and legal memorandum and the creation of a Trial Notebook and portfolio of exemplars.

B. Additional Information

This course will focus on the acquisition of practical skills for the advanced legal assistant student and is a detailed study of trial and pre-trial and certain post-trial procedures. Students will be expected to draft a wide variety of documents involved in a lawsuit.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Draft a complaint and an answer.
2. Draft interrogatories and answers to interrogatories.
3. Draft appropriate motions and supporting briefs.
4. Summarize a deposition and abstract testimony for appellate purposes.
5. Organize medical records and medical bills.
6. Construct a trial notebook.
7. Research and write a legal memorandum.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare various legal documents required for pre-trial, trial and post-trial procedures.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills- Students will identify the legal issues presented in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the many stages of trial to include pre-trial, trial, and post-trial issues.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Civil procedure overview
- B. Arkansas and federal rules of procedure and evidence
- C. Pleadings
- D. Summons
- E. Interrogatories and other discovery methods
- F. Legal memorandum
- G. Motion and brief drafting
- H. Deposition summaries
- I. The trial notebook
- J. Post Trial motion and basic appellate procedure practice