

# **WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

## **ADVOCACY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM APPLICATION**



**2022 - 2023**

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS SEEKING THE CERTIFICATE IN ADVOCACY**

Every individual who receives the Advocacy Certificate must comply with the following requirements:

1. Mandatory Courses (please remember that not all courses will be offered every year)
  - a. ITAP **or** Trial Methods
  - b. Advanced Trial Methods
  - c. At least **one** of the following courses:
    - i. Pre-Trial Methods,
    - ii. Pennsylvania Civil Practice,
    - iii. Pennsylvania Criminal Practice
    - iv. Legal Methods III – Appellate Advocacy,
    - v. Legal Methods III – Specialization (litigation),
    - vi. Negotiations,
    - vii. Alternative Dispute Resolution (graded)
    - viii. Mediation
  - d. At least **one** of the following courses:
    - i. Advanced Criminal Procedure,
    - ii. Advanced Evidence,
    - iii. Law and Policy of Sentencing and Corrections
2. Experiential Learning
  - a. Participation as an attorney in **one** of the following:
    - i. an intramural competition (Moot Court or Trial Ad),
    - ii. an interscholastic competition,
    - iii. a “live client” hearing either through a Clinic or through some other experience under the supervision of a faculty member, and
  - b. Observation of a full trial in either the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas or the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The student must submit a report on the experience to the Director of the Advocacy Certificate Program, and
  - c. Preparation of a Trial Brief, either as part of the mandatory experiential component of the Program, or as part of Advanced Trial Methods.
3. Other
  - a. Students must earn a grade of B- or better in each mandatory course.
  - b. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.8 or higher.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have read and understand the requirements for completion of the Certificate Program in Advocacy. I have met the requirements by completing the following classes and experiences.

**CLASS**

**SEMESTER COMPLETED**

**Choose One:**

ITAP or Trial Methods

\_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Trial Methods

\_\_\_\_\_

**Choose One:**

Pre-Trial Methods

\_\_\_\_\_

Pennsylvania Civil Practice

\_\_\_\_\_

Pennsylvania Criminal Practice

\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Methods III

\_\_\_\_\_

Appellate Advocacy

\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Methods III

\_\_\_\_\_

Specialization (Litigation)

\_\_\_\_\_

Negotiations

\_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Dispute Resolution

\_\_\_\_\_

Mediation

\_\_\_\_\_

**Choose One:**

Advanced Criminal Procedure

\_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Evidence

\_\_\_\_\_

Pennsylvania Criminal Practice

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXPERIENCE**

Intramural Competition \_\_\_\_\_

Interscholastic Competition \_\_\_\_\_

“Live Client” Hearing \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Proceeding (e.g. Preliminary Hearing, Administrative Hearing, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Trial Observation \_\_\_\_\_

Trial Brief \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply for the Advocacy Certificate. I certify that I have read and understand the requirements for completion of the Program.

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR’S OFFICE.**

**THE TRIAL BRIEF AND TRIAL REPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROFESSOR ROBINETTE**

# TRIAL OBSERVATION REPORT

Plaintiff Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Action (Charge(s) if Criminal): \_\_\_\_\_

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Trial: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Witnesses: Plaintiff(Prosecution) \_\_\_\_\_

Defense \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1-10, please rate the effectiveness of the following:

## Opening Statements

Plaintiff (Prosecution)

Defense

Briefly explain how you believe the plaintiff (or prosecution) and the defendant could have improved the opening statements.

## Direct Examinations

Plaintiff (Prosecution)

Defense

Briefly explain how you believe the plaintiff (or prosecution) and the defendant could have improved the direct examination(s).

### **Cross Examinations**

Plaintiff (Prosecution)

Defense

Briefly explain how you believe the plaintiff (or prosecution) and the defendant could have improved the cross examination(s).

### **Closings**

Plaintiff (Prosecution)

Defense

Briefly explain how you believe the plaintiff (or prosecution) and the defendant could have improved the closings.

What did you learn about trial techniques from observing this trial?